

Fielden, Daniel

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2014 11:20 AM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Cc: Coleman, Cheryl; Mooney, Charlotte; Prince, Roy
Subject: RE: OSHA-EPA 301 Injury, Incident & Near Miss Report
Attachments: [REDACTED] OSHA and EPA 301 August 5 2014.pdf

Hi Shuan:

I am experiencing symptoms from the insecticide incident at Potomac Yard, and have attached a new 301 associated with the incident.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Chemicals Management Branch
US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery

[REDACTED]
Location:
2733 S. Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA 22202


For Delivery:
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Mail Code 5306P
Washington, DC 20460

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2014 8:40 AM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Cc: Coleman, Cheryl; Mooney, Charlotte; Prince, Roy
Subject: OSHA-EPA 301 Injury, Incident & Near Miss Report

Hi Shuan:





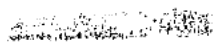

Please find attached a copy of my OSHA-EPA 301 Injury, Incident & Near Miss Report related to the July 3, 2014th insecticide incident at Potomac Yard North. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Chemicals Management Branch
US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery



Location:
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Arlington, VA 22202

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OSHA & EPA 301 - Injury, Illness & Near Miss Report

(Form completed by [redacted])

Phone# [redacted]

Date

8-5-14

Attention: This form contains information relating to employee health and must be used in a manner that protects the confidentiality of employees to the extent possible while the information is being used for occupational safety and health purposes

Information about the employee

1) Full Name



EPA Employee



Grantee or other non-EPA Employee

2) EPA Office/Division

OSWER/ORCR/RCSO/CMB

Building/Room

3) Date of birth

4) Date hired

5) ☒ Male

☐ Female

Information about the "non-governmental" physician or other health care professional

6) Name of physician or other health care professional

7) If away from the worksite, where was the treatment given?

Facility

Street

City/State

8) Was employee treated in an emergency room?

☐ Yes

☒ No

9) Was employee hospitalized overnight as an in-patient?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Information about the Case (To be completed by SHEMP Manager)

20) Case Number

21) Check one



Near Miss

or

Recordable Injury or Illness



Information about the injury/illness or near miss

10) Location of injury/illness, or near miss

11) Date of injury/illness, or near miss

8-5-14 and on-going

12) Time employee began work

7:15

AM



PM



13) Time of event

8:30

AM



PM



Check if Time Cannot be Determined



14) Days of Restricted Work Activity



Days away from Work



15) What was the employee doing just before the incident or near miss occurred? Describe the activity, as well as the tools, equipment or material the employee was using. Be specific. Examples: "climbing a ladder while carrying materials", "walking down hallway", etc.

Sitting at desk, working on computer, and in meeting with staff.

16) What happened? Tell us how the injury, near miss occurred. Examples: "When ladder slipped on wet floor, worker fell 20 feet"; "Worker developed soreness in wrist over time."

Light-headedness, metallic taste in mouth, tight chest, irritated throat, shortness of breath, burning eyes

17) What was the injury or illness? Tell us the part of the body that was affected and how it was affected; be more specific than "hurt", "pain", or "sore." Examples: "strained back"; "chemical burn, hand"; "carpal tunnel syndrome."

Respiratory, head.

18) What object or substance directly harmed the employee? Examples: "floor"; "cabinet door" If this question does not apply to the incident, leave it blank.

?

19) If the employee died, when did death occur? Date and time of death

Fielden, Daniel

From: Prince, Roy
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2014 1:13 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Coleman, Cheryl; Mooney, Charlotte; Barr, Linda; Wilson, Howard; Watson, Cassie
Subject: Re: STATUS: New Cube

[REDACTED] I'm out of the office today. But if you are having a reaction I recommend you leave for the day and work at home. We can also discuss tomorrow moving you to the sixth floor if you wish. I've cced SHEMD so they are aware of what you've experienced.

Roy

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 19, 2014, at 11:07 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Roy – a big thanks to you and your staff for getting me set up and running in my new, hopefully temporary, cube [REDACTED]

I wanted to let all of you know, that about 15 minutes after arriving on the fifth floor and my new cube, I experienced the same chemical taste in my mouth as I did when I moved to a cube near [REDACTED]. After about 30 minutes I developed a headache, which still remains, and now my eyes are beginning to burn. I don't think the air is any better since last week, or in this new space.

I thought this might be useful to you to factor in to your analysis. – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery/RCSD
US Environmental Protection Agency
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Fielden, Daniel

From: Dady, John
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2014 2:25 PM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Cc: Gibson, Dave; Watson, Cassie; Smith, HelenT
Subject: RE: Air On Fifth Floor

Thanks Shuan.

John H. Dady, Chief
Facilities Operations Branch
OARM/OA/FMSD
USEPA
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (3204R)
Washington, DC 20460
office (202) 564-3572
cell (202) 438-8870
dady.john@epa.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2014 2:14 PM
To: Dady, John
Cc: Gibson, Dave; Watson, Cassie; Smith, HelenT
Subject: Air On Fifth Floor

Hey John,

We met with Helen and the affected area's deputy director and visited two offices.

While we were there, we explained that our recommended action is to allow the space to adequately ventilate and that the product that was used does not aggravate any health conditions under normal use. However, each individual is different and may experience exposure differently. As such, we recommend that individuals who still experience symptoms be allowed to temporarily relocate while facilities management works to continue ventilating the space.

Helen Smith will be monitoring the situation to ensure that ventilation does improve the conditions and she will contact SHEMD if a reevaluation is necessary. Additionally, please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns you may have.

Shuan Maria Barbour Swann
Acting, SHEMP Manager
Safety and Occupational Health Specialist Safety, Health and Environmental Management Division U.S.EPA
202-564-1650 (WORK)
202-564-0215 (FAX)

-----Original Message-----

From: Dady, John
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2014 12:49 PM
To: Smith, HelenT; Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Fielden, Daniel
Subject: RE: Air On Fifth Floor

Shuan,

What were your findings at PY?

John H. Dady, Chief
Facilities Operations Branch
OARM/OA/FMSD
USEPA
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (3204R)
Washington, DC 20460
office (202) 564-3572
cell (202) 438-8870
dady.john@epa.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Smith, HelenT
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2014 12:41 PM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Fielden, Daniel
Cc: Dady, John
Subject: FW: Air On Fifth Floor

See the email below. There are several other people. I have learned that are having symptoms from the planet spray. Whom you all meet [REDACTED] complaining about [REDACTED] throat and eyes. I don't know if we should have air quality test done. There are 3 people so far still complaining about smell. I am having the carpet shampoo this evening in the following offices. (b) (6) [REDACTED] North side of the building and (b) (6) [REDACTED] who is located on the South side of the building. Hopefully this will resolve the problem. I will check when I return on Tuesday morning. Thanks every one.

-----Original Message-----

From: Reed, Kristen On Behalf Of Cheatham, Reggie
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2014 12:00 PM
To: Smith, HelenT
Cc: Bertrand, Charlotte
Subject: FW: Air On Fifth Floor

-----Original Message-----

From: Bertrand, Charlotte
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2014 11:53 AM
To: smith.helen@epa.gov
Cc: Cheatham, Reggie
Subject: Air On Fifth Floor

Hi Helen, thanks so much for having health and safety come to our office space today. After they left, I learned two additional employees are having effects from the air near Cheryl's office. I think it is important to pass that information on to them. Charlotte

Fielden, Daniel

From: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2014 12:25 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: OSHA-EPA 301 Form

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Yes. Thank you.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2014 11:54 AM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Subject: OSHA-EPA 301 Form

Hi Shuan,

I just wanted to confirm that you received my completed form 301 for the pesticide spray incident that occurred on July 3rd. I faxed it on July 31st.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
Resource Conservation and Sustainability Division
U.S. EPA/ORCR

Mailing Address:

MC 5306P
1200 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20460

Courier Delivery Address:

Two Potomac Yard
2733 S. Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA 22202

Fielden, Daniel

From: Watson, Cassie
Sent: Monday, August 04, 2014 3:46 PM
To: christopher.holland@foh.hhs.gov
Subject: FW: On-site Federal Occupational Health Doctor related to Insecticide Spray Incident on July 3rd

FYI.

From: Prince, Roy
Sent: 8/1/2014 9:52 AM
To: Wilson, Howard; Watson, Cassie
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: On-site Federal Occupational Health Doctor related to Insecticide Spray Incident on July 3rd

Howard/Cassie: please forward this to Dr. Holland. [REDACTED] experienced some health complications during the time of concern, which may or may not be related. Unfortunately (b) will not be available to see the doctor next Tuesday or Wednesday. However, (b) is requesting if it's possible to talk to Dr. Holland in person sometime between August 11 and 14. Thanks.

Roy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2014 9:32 AM
To: Prince, Roy
Subject: RE: On-site Federal Occupational Health Doctor related to Insecticide Spray Incident on July 3rd

Hi Roy,

I will be fairly busy Monday to Thursday next week meeting stakeholders and going to various technical sessions. Schatzi, Kim and I are all be at the Conference next week.

What I want to report this –

(b) (6)
[REDACTED]

(b) (6) (b) (6)
[REDACTED]

Will it be possible sometime the following Monday thru Thursday, August 11 to 14? I will be out of office starting August 15 and return on August 26.

Thanks.

[REDACTED]

From: Prince, Roy
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2014 5:10 PM
To: OSWER ORCR EVERYONE
Cc: Watson, Cassie; Wilson, Howard
Subject: On-site Federal Occupational Health Doctor related to Insecticide Spray Incident on July 3rd

Hello everyone. The Agency's Safety, Health and Environmental Management Division has made arrangements for a Federal Occupational Health doctor to be on-site next week for the purpose of interviewing any employee wishing to explain health complications or reactions they experienced resulting from the insecticide spray incident on July 3rd.

Eight 30 minute appointments are available on Tuesday, August 5th and Wednesday, August 6th, beginning each day at 7:30 a.m. with the last appointment at 11 a.m.. The appointments will be held on the 6th floor in Room N-6871.

If you'd like to speak to the doctor, please get back to me asap by phone or email with the day and 30 minute time slot you would like to be interviewed. Thank you.

Roy

(b) (6)

Fielden, Daniel

From: Watson, Cassie
Sent: Monday, August 11, 2014 4:20 PM
To: Prince, Roy
Cc: Wilson, Howard; Huff, Mark J; Dr. R Hugh Granger Ph.D.; Holland, Christopher (PSC/FOH)
Subject: RE: 5th Floor Space Update as of Monday, August 11th

Roy,

We have not received any formal recommendations from Dr. Holland as his part in this project is ongoing.

Respectfully,
Cassie Watson
Chief, Operations Branch
Safety, Health & Environmental Mgmt. Division

From: Prince, Roy
Sent: Monday, August 11, 2014 3:51 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Fitz-James, Schatzi; Watson, Cassie; Wilson, Howard; Huff, Mark J
Subject: RE: 5th Floor Space Update as of Monday, August 11th

Thank you [REDACTED]. I wasn't aware of any recommendations the physician had made already.

Cassie: are you aware of recommendations Dr. Holland has already made? Thank you.

Mario: if you would like, I may be able to find an empty cube up on the sixth floor.

Roy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 11, 2014 3:44 PM
To: Prince, Roy
Cc: Fitz-James, Schatzi; Watson, Cassie
Subject: RE: 5th Floor Space Update as of Monday, August 11th

Roy,

(b) (6)

[REDACTED] In addition, the occupational physician mentioned to me during my interview with him last week about the recommendations he had already made. From my own experience, the longer you wait to do those studies, the longer it will take them to make that call.

[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460
[REDACTED]

Visit us at: www.epa.gov/waste/homeland

From: Prince, Roy
Sent: Monday, August 11, 2014 2:53 PM
To: OSWER ORCR EVERYONE
Subject: 5th Floor Space Update as of Monday, August 11th

Hello everyone- here is the latest update regarding the situation impacting our 5th floor space as of Monday, August 11th :

- The occupational physician from Federal Occupational Health conducted ½ hour interviews last Tuesday and Wednesday, and will be back tomorrow morning (August 12th) to conduct eight additional scheduled interviews. Once the physician has completed all the interviews, he will provide the Safety, Health and Environmental Management Division (SHEMD) with a report on his findings and SHEMD will be letting ORCR know what if any follow up actions are necessary per the report.
- Brian Kovak, OSWER's Safety, Health and Environmental Management Official has been in contact with a representative of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to lay the groundwork for securing their insight or assistance should it be necessary.
- SHEMD has contracted with HP Environmental, Dr. Hugh Granger to assist with their investigation of the indoor air quality in the building. Further information regarding that investigation will be provided once it is known.
- The Facilities Division has informed us that the floor and ceiling tiles removed from the 5th floor office where the spray occurred will be replaced with new tiles shortly.

We will continue to let you know information as we receive it, along with sending out regular emails Monday and Wednesday afternoons until this situation has been fully resolved.

Thanks again for your patience and let me and/or your managers know if there is anything we can do to help.

Roy

Fielden, Daniel

From: Watson, Cassie
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 3:36 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Prince, Roy; Holland, Christopher (PSC/FOH)
Subject: FW: OSHA & EPA 301 Form
Attachments: [Untitled].pdf

(b)
Please let me know if you think you need to talk with the doctor. I will share this copy with the doctor, please let me know if you want to talk with him telephonically.

R/Cassie

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 1:13 PM
To: Watson, Cassie
Subject: FW: OSHA & EPA 301 Form

Hello Cassie, Is there a need for me to participate in any of the interviews with the Occupational Physician?

-----Original Message-----

From: Prince, Roy
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 10:49 AM
To: Watson, Cassie
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OSHA & EPA 301 Form

Good morning Cassie. [REDACTED] has completed and provided me with an OSHA & EPA 301 Form that I've attached here. (b) may have sent it to you already - but just in case (b) hasn't I wanted to forward it to you.

OSHA & EPA 301 - Injury, Illness & Near Miss Report

[Form completed by

phone

date

07/30/14

Attention: This form contains information relating to employee health and must be used in a manner that protects the confidentiality of employees to the extent possible while the information is being used for occupational safety and health purposes.

Information about the employee

1) Full Name

☒

EPA Employee

☐

Grantee or other non-EPA Employee

2) EPA Office/Division

OSWER/ORCR/PACAD/ERAS

Building/Room

PYN/Cube

3) Date of birth

4) Date hired

5) (b) (6)

Information about the "non-governmental" physician or other health care professional

6) Name of physician or other health care professional

7) If away from the worksite, where was the treatment given?

Facility

Street

City/State

8) Was employee treated in an emergency room?

☐ Yes

☒ No

9) Was employee hospitalized overnight as an in-patient?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Information about the injury/illness or near miss

10) Location of injury/illness, or near miss

Patamac Yard North/6th Floor/Cube

11) Date of injury/illness, or near miss

July 3rd, 2014

12) Time employee began work

8:30

AM

☒ PM

13) Time of event

Approx. 11:45

AM

☒ PM

Check if Time Cannot be Determined

☒

Not aware of exact time of event.

14) Days of Restricted Work Activity

Days away from Work

15) What was the employee doing just before the incident or near miss occurred? Describe the activity, as well as the tools, equipment or material the employee was using. Be specific. Examples: "climbing a ladder while carrying materials"; "walking down hallway", etc.

(b) (6)

and working in my cube. Numerous office-wide staff were impacted and numerous ERAS staff requested telework (b) (6)

16) What happened? Tell us how the injury, near miss occurred. Examples: "When ladder slipped on wet floor, worker fell"

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

17) What was the injury or illness? Tell us the part of the body

specific than "hurt", "pain", or "sore." Examples: "strained back"; "chemical burn, hand"; "carpal tunnel syndrome."

I experienced a typical eye pain and soreness, as well as eye fatigue and overall body fatigue. I also developed a headache which continued throughout the evening. (b) (6)

18) What object or substance directly harmed the employee? If the object or substance does not apply to the incident, leave it blank.

Retard: of miscommunication (b) (6)

in the Federal Facilities Office of PYN.

19) If the employee died, when did death occur? Date and time of death

N/A

Information about the Case (To be completed by SEMP Manager)

20) Case Number

22) Source Code

Code

Description

21) Check one

☐

Near Miss

or

Recordable Injury or Illness

☐

23) Injury/Illness Nature Code

Code

Description

Fielden, Daniel

From: Hugh At HPE <hgranger@hpenviron.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 4:29 PM
To: Holland, Christopher (PSC/FOH/CHS) (CTR)
Cc: Watson, Cassie
Subject: Re: Another Round of Medication

Chris.

Thanks for being in touch. I will call you at 4 PM your time tomorrow. I believe we either have, or will shortly have answers to these four questions.

Talk to you soon. If you need me sooner my cell is (b) (6).

Hugh.

R. Hugh Granger, Ph.D.
HP Environmental, Inc.

On Aug 12, 2014, at 2:08 PM, "Holland, Christopher (PSC/FOH/CHS) (CTR)"
<Christopher.Holland@foh.hhs.gov> wrote:

Hugh,

You can call me tomorrow between 11 AM and 5 PM at (b) (6). I looked for you today (Tuesday) but didn't see you and I had interviews right up to 11:45. I don't currently plan to be back in the building and I go on vacation this Friday for 2 weeks, so let's talk tomorrow. I can provide some information based on the medical interviews.

Cassie, I have no comments on employee's ongoing complaints. The environmental investigation and the sampling data will have to guide management's decision to give employee's the "all clear" to return to their usual work stations. Any ongoing symptoms will need to be addressed by their respective treating physicians.

Four areas of interest emerged from the interviews that I will mention now. (1) What are the other (98%) ingredients in the product; (2) Why did such a small amount of a household product create such a pungent and pervasive odor? (3) Could the subsequent carpet cleaning be contributing to employee's ongoing complaints? (4) Concern was also expressed about the balancing of the HVAC system on the 5th floor. Apparently there is a history of odors lingering at that (north) end of the 5th floor. At least one employee has moved recently due to persistent odors in that area prior to this incident.

Chris Holland, MD, MPH

From: Hugh At HPE [hgranger@hpenviron.com]
Sent: Monday, August 11, 2014 5:08 PM
To: Watson, Cassie
Cc: Holland, Christopher (PSC/FOH/CHS) (CTR); Wilson, Howard
Subject: Re: Another Round of Medication

Cassie et al.,

I would like to have a chance to brief Dr. Holland on my research into this incident on the 5th floor. I am available Tuesday Wednesday or Thursday after noon your time.

Regards,

Hugh

R. Hugh Granger, Ph.D.
HP Environmental, Inc.

On Aug 11, 2014, at 2:50 PM, "Watson, Cassie" <Watson.Cassie@epa.gov> wrote:

Dr. Holland,
Please see the email below. Any comments/recommendations/input?

R/Cassie

From: Prince, Roy
Sent: Thursday, August 07, 2014 6:25 PM
To: [REDACTED] Wilson, Howard; Watson, Cassie
Cc: [REDACTED] Mooney, Charlotte; Coleman, Cheryl; Huff, Mark J
Subject: Re: Another Round of Medication

Howard/Cassie: forwarding these emails to you as additional information for Dr. Holland.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 7, 2014, at 5:58 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

I seem to be developing a similar pattern where, after being in the office for a short time, I develop symptoms and need to get out of the building. I'm better today - after being away from the office for two days. At any rate, I'm forwarding your e-mail to Roy and Mark so they can get the information to those who are working on the response.

Thanks - and have a great weekend!

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 7, 2014 5:20 PM
To: [REDACTED] Mooney, Charlotte; Coleman, Cheryl
Subject: Another Round of Medication

Good Afternoon,

For what it's worth, I've been placed on another round of medication for the next two weeks (b) (6)

[REDACTED]

The coughing from being in the office on Tuesday has subsided as of today. I coughed maybe twice this morning and no more. This has been my pattern, cough free for a few days and back into the office and the coughing flares up. I'm almost wondering if I have not been properly treated. I say that because my reaction seems to be a lot worse than anybody else in the office.

The irony in all of this is that not enough information has come forth to satisfy the need for an investigation, but I've been on THREE weeks of medication and I'm going in for a second running, to try to avoid the setbacks when I come into the office. If I've been sensitized to the pesticide, is there any information on how long it takes for someone to NO longer be sensitive to it? Or are we operating somewhat in the dark?

[REDACTED]

Fielden, Daniel

From: Dr. R Hugh Granger Ph.D. <hgranger@hpenviron.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2014 11:55 AM
To: Wilson, Howard
Cc: Holland, Christopher (PSC/FOH); Watson, Cassie
Subject: Re: 5th Floor Space Update as of Monday, August 18th
Attachments: PastedGraphic-2.tiff

Howard,

There is no air testing that can specifically detect any residue related to the July 3rd IAQ incident. The insecticide used was too unstable to last very long and there was not enough insecticide, even in the entire bottle, to produce a high enough concentration that any testing could reasonably detect it if it were present. The odor that resulted from the insecticide is detected by our nose orders of magnitude lower than anything we could measure with testing equipment. We can, and perhaps should, conduct general IAQ type of air testing to make sure everything else is correct in the space, but this would be different than testing for an insecticide residue as I think Roy is suggesting.

When we chat I think we should consider looking at the general satisfaction of the 5th floor occupants with the indoor air quality in their space. This is IAQ attention is not necessarily directly related to the event of July 3rd. We may want to look carefully at the ventilation air supply and distribution and make sure everyone in the space understands how the air systems are designed to work in the space. For instance, in an unoccupied office, the amount of air exchange may be low because there is little call for cooling from the space. If you enter a space your comfort may not be the same as if you occupies and worked in the space. The same is true for the conference room. If a group enters the conference room, and for some reason the cooling requirement for the room is already satisfied (perhaps a cloudy day), then the amount of air exchange may be too low to satisfy this group and you can get some in the group responding with dry or burning eyes. I am thinking it may be a good idea to separate out issues that are more likely general IAQ issues from issues related to the events of July 3rd.

Lets see if there is something we can do to help Roy be more comfortable.

Hugh



R. Hugh Granger, Ph.D.
Toxicologist & Laboratory Director
HP Environmental, Inc.
104 Eden St., Suite 11
Hemlock, Virginia 20170
(703) 471-4200
hgranger@hpenviron.com

On Aug 19, 2014, at 8:18 AM, Wilson, Howard <Wilson.Howard@epa.gov> wrote:

Fyi

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Prince, Roy <Prince.Roy@epa.gov>

Sent: Monday, August 18, 2014 4:37 PM
To: Wilson, Howard; Watson, Cassie
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: 5th Floor Space Update as of Monday, August 18th

[REDACTED] thank you for alerting us to the situation you describe below. I am not aware of whether an air quality check in the impacted space has been conducted. However, as you can see I've forwarded your email to Howard and Cassie in the Agency's Health and Safety Division. They are working closely with any entities that would have conducted an air sample if it occurred, or may be planning to do so, with the hope that they could shed some light on your question. Thanks.

Roy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2014 4:30 PM
To: Prince, Roy
Subject: RE: 5th Floor Space Update as of Monday, August 18th

Good afternoon Roy, I have been testing my reaction to the spray in my old office space. I occasionally go down to my old office to retrieve some supplies I need that I did not bring over when I moved and I spend not even 3-5 minutes in that area and I feel dizzy and become hoarse. My question is: has a quality air check been done for the 5th floor to make sure the residue from the spray is not still present? Something is causing my symptoms to reoccur when I go in my old space.

From: Prince, Roy
Sent: Monday, August 18, 2014 4:19 PM
To: OSWER ORCR EVERYONE
Cc: Wilson, Howard; Watson, Cassie
Subject: 5th Floor Space Update as of Monday, August 18th

Hello everyone – no additional information has surfaced since last Wednesday's update which I've attached below for reference.

We will continue to let you know information as we receive it and continue the scheduled emails on Monday and Wednesday afternoons until the situation has been fully resolved.

Thanks again for your patience and please let me and/or your managers know if there is anything we can do to help.

Roy

Last Wednesday's Update

- EPA's Safety, Health and Environmental Management Division (SHEMD), HP Environmental and Brian Kovak, OSWER's SHEMD official continue to compile and analyze information related to the July 3rd incident.

- SHMED has been working with EPA's Analytical Chemistry Laboratory at Ft. Meade, MD for the purpose of providing interpretation and conclusions regarding the specific product sprayed on the day of the event.
- A second meeting with EPA's pesticide chemist, the toxicologist and SHEMD is being scheduled to review the chemistry of the pesticide spray and conditions or reactions that might explain the odor on July 3rd.
- Dr. Holland, the occupational health physician from Federal Occupational Health, has completed interviews with 24 ORCR employees. Dr. Holland, SHEMD and their consulting toxicologist are meeting today to review the results of those employee interviews and also discuss the toxicology of the active ingredients in the pesticide spray.
- Dr. Holland will produce a report summarizing his interpretations and conclusions from the interviews and the report will be shared with employees.
- Dr. Granger of HP Environmental and SHEMD will meet tomorrow with the building owners for the purpose of reviewing the HVAC system and its relevance to the July 3rd event and its aftermath.
- An ORCR All Hands meeting is being planned for September 3rd or 4th, at which Dr. Holland, Dr. Granger, and SHEMD will be present to discuss findings and conclusions and answer employee questions.

Fielden, Daniel

From: Wilson, Howard
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 7:44 AM
To: Watson, Cassie; Holland, Christopher (PSC/FOH)
Subject: Fw: Insecticide incident

Fyi

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Prince, Roy <Prince.Roy@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 6:38 AM
To: Wilson, Howard; Watson, Cassie
Subject: Fwd: Insecticide incident

FYI for Dr Holland.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: August 12, 2014 at 8:47:44 PM EDT
To: "Prince, Roy" <Prince.Roy@epa.gov>
Cc: "Picardi, Rick" <Picardi.Rick@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Insecticide incident

Hey Roy:

On July 3, I unfortunately got a good hit of the fumes from the insecticide because I had to go to the (b) (6) bathroom right around when it happened, close to the location of the incident. The smell made me gag, and my nostrils felt burned the rest of the day. I went back to my cube, but I kept smelling it, and I started to cough. I was told I could go home to work the rest of the day (b) (6)

[REDACTED] My coughing got worse, and I started to feel a little light-headed. (b) (6)

(b) (6). I basically felt crappy the rest of the day. I think it got on my clothes, because once I changed clothes and showered the smell got better. The next day I don't remember feeling crappy – just that day.

FWIW - I have (b) (6) ites.

(b) (6)

International and Transportation Branch
U.S. EPA (5304P)

From: Picardi, Rick

Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 4:31 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Insecticide incident

[REDACTED]

When you get a chance, would you please send Roy an e-mail letting him know that you had symptoms on the day of the insecticide incident and describe the symptoms? As I recall, you said you didn't have symptoms after the day of the incident, but if you did, please let Roy know that as well. The office would like to know who was affected by the insecticide incident and how they were affected.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks

Rick

Fielden, Daniel

From: Wilson, Howard
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2014 8:08 AM
To: Carpenter, Wesley; Dr. R Hugh Granger Ph.D.
Subject: Fw: Potomac Yard Odor Incident

Fyi
Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2014 7:30 AM
To: Watson, Cassie; OSWER ORCR EVERYONE
Cc: Carpenter, Wesley; Wilson, Howard; Huff, Mark J; Prince, Roy
Subject: RE: Potomac Yard Odor Incident

Cassie,

Thanks for the reports. Look forward to discussing today. Just as a data point, (b) (6)
(b) (6) (b) (6) Within 5 minutes of being here, I still experience the same symptoms that I
did almost 2 months ago. Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

[REDACTED]
Visit us at: www.epa.gov/waste/homeland

From: Watson, Cassie
Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2014 4:44 PM
To: OSWER ORCR EVERYONE
Cc: Carpenter, Wesley; Wilson, Howard; Huff, Mark J; Prince, Roy
Subject: Potomac Yard Odor Incident

As you are all aware, thanks to updates provided by ORCR management, SHEMD has been working with occupants of Potomac Yard North to address the odor incident that occurred on July 3, 2014. Please find the final indoor air quality report prepared by Dr. Hugh Granger, Ph.D, a toxicologist with HP Environmental, attached. Also attached is the final medical assessment report prepared by Dr. Christopher Holland, MD, with Federal Occupational Health.

If you have any questions, please be prepared to ask them at tomorrow's all-hands meeting at 9:00 am.

Respectfully,
Cassie Watson
Chief, Operations Branch
Safety, Health & Environmental Mgmt. Division

Fielden, Daniel

From: Watson, Cassie
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 8:13 AM
To: Smith, HelenT; Dady, John
Cc: Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Daniel.fielden@erg.com
Subject: RE: New Move

Thanks, Helen.

Sent from my Windows Phone

From: Smith, HelenT
Sent: 7/24/2014 6:50 AM
To: Watson, Cassie; Dady, John
Cc: Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Smith, HelenT
Subject: FW: New Move

Per conversation yesterday.

Below is the list of names that moved from their offices due to the order from the planet spray.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Dupree, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2014 4:56 PM
To: Smith, HelenT
Subject: FW: New Move

Updated move areas.

From: Dupree, Susan
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2014 2:25 PM
To: OSWER ORCR RCSD EVERYONE
Subject: New Move

Good afternoon staff, this email is let you know where we have moved temporarily.

(b) (6) [REDACTED]

(b) (6) [REDACTED]

Betsy

OSHA & EPA 301 - Injury, Illness & Near Miss Report

[Form completed by [redacted] Phone [redacted] Date 07/24/14]

Attention: This form contains information relating to employee health and must be used in a manner that protects the confidentiality of employees to the extent possible while the information is being used for occupational safety and health purposes.

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Information about the employee | | Information about the injury/illness or near miss | |
| 1) Full Name | [redacted] | 10) Location of injury/illness, or near miss | Potomac Yards North, Room [redacted] |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EPA Employee | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grantee or other non-EPA Employee | | | |
| 2) EPA Office/Division | EPA/ORCR/MRWMD | 11) Date of injury/illness, or near miss | 07/03/2014 |
| Building/Room | PYN [redacted] | 12) Time employee began work | 8:00 AM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PM <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3) Date of birth | [redacted] | 13) Time of event | Approx 10:00 AM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PM <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Check if Time Cannot be Determined | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4) Date hired | [redacted] | 14) Days of Restricted Work Activity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5) (b) (6) | [redacted] | Days away from Work | 0.5 |
| Information about the "non-governmental" physician or other health care professional | | 15) What was the employee doing just before the incident or near miss occurred? Describe the activity, as well as the tools, equipment or material the employee was using. Be specific. Examples: "climbing a ladder while carrying materials"; "walking down hallway", etc. | |
| 6) Name of physician or other health care professional | [redacted] | I was in Potomac Yard North on a regular work day working at my desk when several of my colleagues began to indicate that there was a strong odor in the hallway. | |
| 7) If away from the worksite, where was the treatment given? | | 16) What happened? Tell us how the injury, near miss occurred. Examples: "When ladder slipped on wet floor, worker fell 20 feet"; "Worker developed soreness in wrist over time." | |
| Facility | | I continued to work until about 12:00 when the smell got worse. The acting Division Chief came over around 11:00 and told us that someone had sprayed a plant with a pesticide and that several people were complaining about the smell and that we could go home if it got to bad. | |
| Street | | 17) What was the injury or illness? Tell us the part of the body that was affected and how it was affected; be more specific than "hurt", "pain", or "sore." Examples: "strained back"; "chemical burn, hand"; "carpal tunnel syndrome." | |
| City/State | | At about 11:30 I could feel a heaviness in my lungs. My eyes were watering. I continued to work until 12 noon at which time the smell appeared to increase. I left the 5th floor and went to the garage to drive home. The vapor level in the garage was significantly heavier than on 5. | |
| 8) Was employee treated in an emergency room? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | 18) What object or substance directly harmed the employee? Examples: "floor"; "cabinet door" if this question does not apply to the incident, leave it blank. | |
| 9) Was employee hospitalized overnight as an in-patient? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | I was told at the time that it was a pesticide that may have reacted water. I have not been informed what I was exposed to. I had minor headaches at home after this exposure. | |
| | | 19) If the employee died, when did death occur? Date and time of death | |

Information about the Case (To be completed by SHEMP Manager)

| | | | | | |
|---|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--|
| 20) Case Number | [redacted] | 22) Source Code | <input type="checkbox"/> | Code Description | |
| 21) Check one <input type="checkbox"/> Near Miss or <input type="checkbox"/> Recordable Injury or Illness | | 23) Injury/Illness Nature Code | <input type="checkbox"/> | Code Description | |

Fielden, Daniel

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 25, 2014 9:06 AM
To: Prince, Roy
Cc: Devlin, Betsy; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Watson, Cassie; Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Emmott, Ross
Subject: RE: Temporary relocation of RCSD staff & Submittal of OSHA/EPA Form 301
Attachments: osha_epa_form301 [REDACTED] ORCR.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Roy,

Per your request yesterday, I am resending this to you again to ensure that all of my appropriate management chain is aware. Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Visit us at: www.epa.gov/waste/homeland

From: Prince, Roy
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 12:24 PM
To: [REDACTED] Devlin, Betsy; OSWER ORCR MRWMD EVERYONE
Cc: Coleman, Cheryl; Mooney, Charlotte; ORCR IO
Subject: RE: Temporary relocation of RCSD staff

[REDACTED] and any others impacted): Below is a link to an Incident Report form used by the Agency. Please complete and submit the form by fax to Shuan Barbour-Swann if you've experienced any impacts.

Here is the Health and Safety web page explaining the process of report these types of incidents: <http://intranet.epa.gov/oaintran/shemd/national/i2p2/reporting/injury.htm>

You'll want to complete the Incident Report known as the OSHA & EPA 301 -- Injury, Illness and Near Miss Report/Form: http://intranet.epa.gov/oaintran/shemd/national/content/osh_a_epa_form301.pdf

Submit the report by fax to:

Attn: Shuan Barbour-Swann
OARM/OA/SHEMD/Operations Branch
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code 3207A

Washington, DC 20460
Fax: 202-564-0215

[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 12:12 PM
To: Devlin, Betsy; OSWER ORCR MRWMD EVERYONE
Cc: Coleman, Cheryl; Mooney, Charlotte; ORCR IO; Prince, R [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Temporary relocation of RCSD staff

[REDACTED]

Could someone please explain to those of us that were here on the Friday that this incident occurred what it was that we were exposed to? It was so bad that day, I had to leave early, had a headache all afternoon and have continued to have both sleep and breathing issues. However, I was unaware how many others were also having impacts. I would actually like to have the SDS for whatever was involved in the incident so that I may provide it to my doctor. Thank you for your help,

[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

[REDACTED]
Visit us at: www.epa.gov/waste/homeland

From: Devlin, Betsy
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 8:10 AM
To: OSWER ORCR MRWMD EVERYONE
Cc: Coleman, Cheryl; Mooney, Charlotte; ORCR IO; Prince, Roy
Subject: Temporary relocation of RCSD staff

Dear Everyone

Due to a situation in the RCSD space (that space north of the elevator), our management has requested that all staff located north of the elevators relocate temporarily to a vacant cube in our area. These temporary moves are likely to occur today/tomorrow or early next week. I have indicated that cubes 5231 and 5325 are not available. (If there is another vacant cube that is not available for someone to occupy temporarily, please let me know.)

In addition, [REDACTED]

I thank you all for your patience and understanding during this time. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to talk to your Branch Chief, Ross, or me.

Fielden, Daniel

From: Watson, Cassie
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 2:08 PM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Daniel.fielden@erg.com
Subject: FW: Temporary relocation of RCSD staff

Sent from my Windows Phone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 7/24/2014 2:00 PM
To: Watson, Cassie
Subject: FW: Temporary relocation of RCSD staff

Cassie,

My response to those that provided out the information this morning.

[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

[REDACTED]
Visit us at: www.epa.gov/waste/homeland

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 12:12 PM
To: Devlin, Betsy; OSWER ORCR MRWMD EVERYONE
Cc: Coleman, Cheryl; Mooney, Charlotte; ORCR IO; Prince, Roy
Subject: RE: Temporary relocation of RCSD staff

Betsy,

Could someone please explain to those of us that were here on the Friday that this incident occurred what it was that we were exposed to? It was so bad that day, I had to leave early, had a headache all afternoon and have continued to have both sleep and breathing issues. However, I was unaware how many others were also having impacts. I would actually like to have the SDS for whatever was involved in the incident so that I may provide it to my doctor. Thank you for your help,

[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery

U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

visit us at: www.epa.gov/waste/homeland

From: Devlin, Betsy
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 8:10 AM
To: OSWER ORCR MRWMD EVERYONE
Cc: Coleman, Cheryl; Mooney, Charlotte; ORCR IO; Prince, Roy
Subject: Temporary relocation of RCSD staff

Dear Everyone

Due to a situation in the RCSD space (that space north of the elevator), our management has requested that all staff located north of the elevators relocate temporarily to a vacant cube in our area. These temporary moves are likely to occur today/tomorrow or early next week. I have indicated that cubes 5231 and 5325 are not available. (If there is another vacant cube that is not available for someone to occupy temporarily, please let me know.)

In addition, Cheryl Coleman is sitting in 5673 and Charlotte Mooney in 5651.

I thank you all for your patience and understanding during this time. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to talk to your Branch Chief, Ross, or me.

Betsy

Fielden, Daniel

From: Daniel Fielden <Daniel.Fielden@erg.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 2:18 PM
To: Fielden, Daniel
Subject: FW: Temporary relocation of RCSD staff

Daniel Fielden, ASP, OHST
Industrial Hygienist
Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG)
EPA Office: (202) 564-5346
daniel.fielden@erg.com

From: Watson, Cassie <Watson.Cassie@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 2:08:30 PM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Daniel Fielden
Subject: FW: Temporary relocation of RCSD staff

Sent from my Windows Phone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 7/24/2014 2:02 PM
To: Watson, Cassie
Subject: FW: Temporary relocation of RCSD staff

Cassie,

This is all that we were provided.....this is not in accordance with OSHA and is actually only served to increase the concern of those of us over here that were here that day. I will provide that list as well as my knowledge of what happened that day.

[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460
[REDACTED]

Visit us at: www.epa.gov/waste/homeland

From: Prince, Roy
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 12:24 PM
To: [REDACTED] evlin, Betsy; OSWER ORCR MRWMD EVERYONE
Cc: Coleman, Cheryl; Mooney, Charlotte; ORCR IO
Subject: RE: Temporary relocation of RCSD staff

[REDACTED] (and any others impacted): Below is a link to an Incident Report form used by the Agency. Please complete and submit the form by fax to Shuan Barbour-Swann if you've experienced any impacts.

Here is the Health and Safety web page explaining the process of report these types of incidents: <http://intranet.epa.gov/oaintran/shemd/national/i2p2/reporting/injury.htm>

You'll want to complete the Incident Report known as the OSHA & EPA 301 – Injury, Illness and Near Miss Report/Form: http://intranet.epa.gov/oaintran/shemd/national/content/osha_epa_form301.pdf

Submit the report by fax to:

Attn: Shuan Barbour-Swann
OARM/OA/SHEMD/Operations Branch
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code 3207A
Washington, DC 20460
Fax: 202-564-0215

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 12:12 PM
To: Devlin, Betsy; OSWER ORCR MRWMD EVERYONE
Cc: Coleman, Cheryl; Mooney, Charlotte; ORCR IO; Prince, Roy
Subject: RE: Temporary relocation of RCSD staff

Betsy,

Could someone please explain to those of us that were here on the Friday that this incident occurred what it was that we were exposed to? It was so bad that day, I had to leave early, had a headache all afternoon and have continued to have both sleep and breathing issues. However, I was unaware how many others were also having impacts. I would actually like to have the SDS for whatever was involved in the incident so that I may provide it to my doctor. Thank you for your help,

[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460
[REDACTED]

Visit us at: www.epa.gov/waste/homeland

From: Devlin, Betsy
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 8:10 AM
To: OSWER ORCR MRWMD EVERYONE
Cc: Coleman, Cheryl; Mooney, Charlotte; ORCR IO; Prince, Roy
Subject: Temporary relocation of RCSD staff

Dear Everyone

Due to a situation in the RCSD space (that space north of the elevator), our management has requested that all staff located north of the elevators relocate temporarily to a vacant cube in our area. These temporary moves are likely to occur today/tomorrow or early next week. I have indicated that cubes 5231 and 5325 are not available. (If there is another vacant cube that is not available for someone to occupy temporarily, please let me know.)

In addition, [REDACTED]

I thank you all for your patience and understanding during this time. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to talk to your Branch Chief, Ross, or me.

Betsy

Fielden, Daniel

From: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Sent: Friday, July 25, 2014 9:26 AM
To: Watson, Cassie
Cc: Fielden, Daniel; Dady, John; Smith, Helen T
Subject: Temporary relocation of RCSD staff

Cassie,

In his response (b) is selectively using information that was provided to (b). For example, while we did say that the material probably got in to the HVAC system, we did not say, or allude to the idea, that this was causing any exposure to staff. In fact, (b) was told that the HVAC system was serviced and its filters were replaced.

Shuan

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 4:06 PM
To: Fitz-James, Schatzi
Cc: Watson, Cassie; Prince, Roy; Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Subject: RE: Temporary relocation of RCSD staff

SFJ,

Well a whole bunch of people have come to visit me this afternoon about this. Apparently, management did not communicate this to their employees from all that I have found. Apparently from the Industrial Hygienist that came over, they have known for a week that the material got into the HVAC system. So, it has been another week that people who may have been exposed have not been provided information. I can't scan in this document due to the printer not working so I am attaching hear for you and copying those that Roy asked me to as well as Roy.

I still do not feel that we have been apprised of the information that has been collected that I learned about today by just asking questions. That is really an issue that management should be communicating with its people, instead of just telling them that people are moving without telling us why.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Visit us at: www.epa.gov/waste/homeland

From: Fitz-James, Schatzi
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 1:01 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Temporary relocation of RCSD staff

From: Fitz-James, Schatzi
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 12:51 PM
To: Prince, Roy
Subject: RE: Temporary relocation of RCSD staff

That doesn't answer his question. It looks like we're trying to hide something, which I don't believe is the case.....

From: Prince, Roy
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 12:24 PM
To: [REDACTED] Devlin, Betsy; OSWER ORCR MRWMD EVERYONE
Cc: Coleman, Cheryl; Mooney, Charlotte; ORCR IO
Subject: RE: Temporary relocation of RCSD staff

[REDACTED] (and any others impacted): Below is a link to an Incident Report form used by the Agency. Please complete and submit the form by fax to Shuan Barbour-Swann if you've experienced any impacts.

Here is the Health and Safety web page explaining the process of report these types of incidents: <http://intranet.epa.gov/oaintran/shemd/national/i2p2/reporting/injury.htm>

You'll want to complete the Incident Report known as the OSHA & EPA 301 – Injury, Illness and Near Miss Report/Form: http://intranet.epa.gov/oaintran/shemd/national/content/osha_epa_form301.pdf

Submit the report by fax to:

Attn: Shuan Barbour-Swann
OARM/OA/SHFMD/Operations Branch
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code 3207A
Washington, DC 20460
Fax: 202-564-0215

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 12:12 PM
To: Devlin, Betsy; OSWER ORCR MRWMD EVERYONE
Cc: Coleman, Cheryl; Mooney, Charlotte; ORCR IO; Prince, Roy
Subject: RE: Temporary relocation of RCSD staff

Betsy,

Could someone please explain to those of us that were here on the Friday that this incident occurred what it was that we were exposed to? It was so bad that day, I had to leave early, had a headache all afternoon and have continued to have both sleep and breathing issues. However, I was unaware how many others were also having impacts. I would

actually like to have the SDS for whatever was involved in the incident so that I may provide it to my doctor. Thank you for your help,

[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460
[REDACTED]

Visit us at: www.epa.gov/waste/homeland

From: Devlin, Betsy
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2014 8:10 AM
To: OSWER ORCR MRWMD EVERYONE
Cc: Coleman, Cheryl; Mooney, Charlotte; ORCR IO; Prince, Roy
Subject: Temporary relocation of RCSD staff

Dear Everyone

Due to a situation in the RCSD space (that space north of the elevator), our management has requested that all staff located north of the elevators relocate temporarily to a vacant cube in our area. These temporary moves are likely to occur today/tomorrow or early next week. I have indicated that cubes 5231 and 5325 are not available. (If there is another vacant cube that is not available for someone to occupy temporarily, please let me know.)

In addition, [REDACTED]

I thank you all for your patience and understanding during this time. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to talk to your Branch Chief, Ross, or me.

Betsy

Fielden, Daniel

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 25, 2014 11:27 AM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Subject: Re: Injury and Illness - 301 Form

No. I relocated to a different office. I went into the area this morning and 5 minutes later, I had a headache, no voice, and burning eyes. I went outside for a half hour and feel fine now.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 25, 2014, at 11:15 AM, "Barbour-Swann, Shuan" <Barbour-Swann.Shuan@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

I have received your form. Have you had any days away from work due to the incident?

From: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Sent: Friday, July 25, 2014 9:48 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Watson, Cassie; Fielden, Daniel
Subject: Request for Detailed Information on PY Incident - 7/3

Hello [REDACTED]

My Branch Chief is out today, so the information you requested will have to be sent to you, first thing Monday morning. I am sorry for the inconvenience. Please feel free to call or email me if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Shuan Maria Barbour Swann
Acting SHEMP, Manager
Safety and Occupational Health Specialist
Safety, Health and Environmental Management Division
U.S.EPA
202-564-1650 (WORK)
202-564-0215 (FAX)

Fielden, Daniel

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2014 7:49 AM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Cc: Coleman, Cheryl; Mooney, Charlotte
Attachments: osha_epa_form301.pdf

[Form completed by [REDACTED] Phone# 703-308-821 Date 8/5/2014]

Information about the employee

☒

Building/Room

5) (b) (6)

☐ Yes☒ No☐ Yes☒ No

12) Time employee began work 6:30 AM ☒ PM ☐

6:30

AM

☒

7 PM

13) Time of event around 12:00 AM ☐ PM ☒

around 12:00

AN

[illegible]

7 PM

Check if Time Cannot be Determined

14) Days of Restricted Work Activity

0

Days away from Work

0

15) What was the employee doing just before the incident or near miss occurred? Describe the activity, as well as the tools, equipment or material the employee was using. Be specific. Examples: "climbing a ladder while carrying materials"; "walking down hallway", etc.

Simple office work - in meetings -- walking down the hallway

16) What happened? Tell us how the injury, near miss occurred. Examples: "When ladder slipped on wet floor, worker fell 20 feet". "Worker developed soreness in wrist over time."

Periodically, I have had light headedness/dizziness, mostly around mid-day and it lasts a few minutes and goes away. My office is away from the area sprayed with pesticide, but often I was in meetings in that area around that time.

17) What was the injury or illness? Tell us the part of the body that was affected and how it was affected; be more specific than "hurt", "pain", or "sore." Examples: "strained back"; "chemical burn, hand"; "carpal tunnel syndrome." light headed/dizzy

18) What object or substance directly harmed the employee? Examples: "floor"; "cabinet door" if this question does not apply to the incident, leave it blank.

Possibly a connection to the indoor spraying of a pesticide. Knowing that the pesticide was sprayed for several months seems to fit my pattern of symptoms.

19) If the employee died, when did death occur? Date and time of death

21) Check one ☐ Near Miss or ☐ Recordable Injury or Illness

| 22) Source Code | Code Description |
|-----------------|------------------|
|-----------------|------------------|

| 23) Injury/Illness Nature Code | | Code Description |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------|
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------|

Fielden, Daniel

From: Devlin, Betsy
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2014 7:45 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Prince, Roy; Huff, Mark J; Watson, Cassie; Fitz-James, Schatzi; OSWER ORCR MRWMD EVERYONE
Subject: RE: Potomac Yard Odor Incident

Thank you.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2014 7:43 AM
To: Devlin, Betsy
Cc: Prince, Roy; Huff, Mark J; Watson, Cassie; Fitz-James, Schatzi; OSWER ORCR MRWMD EVERYONE
Subject: RE: Potomac Yard Odor Incident

Betsy,

I will attempt to move to a place where I don't feel anything. I know others have experienced symptoms on the 6th floor as well. So I may just go over to the Conference Room where the meeting will be and we will find out when we will be able to return to a safe work environment.

[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

[REDACTED]
Visit us at: www.epa.gov/waste/homeland

From: Devlin, Betsy
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2014 7:40 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Prince, Roy; Huff, Mark J; Watson, Cassie; Fitz-James, Schatzi; OSWER ORCR MRWMD EVERYONE
Subject: RE: Potomac Yard Odor Incident

[REDACTED]
Please do not stay at your workstation if you are experiencing symptoms. You can work in [REDACTED] (conference room) or at least temporarily I'm sure there is a spot on the sixth floor. I know that is not convenient, but we do not want you to be experiencing any symptoms.

Betsy

Note to all MRWMD – if anyone is experiencing symptoms, please let us know and as we have said, episodic telework is authorized in these circumstances.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2014 7:31 AM
To: Watson, Cassie; OSWER ORCR EVERYONE
Cc: Carpenter, Wesley; Wilson, Howard; Huff, Mark J; Prince, Roy
Subject: RE: Potomac Yard Odor Incident

Cassie,

Thanks for the reports. Look forward to discussing today. (b) (6)
[REDACTED] Within 5 minutes of being here, I still experience the same symptoms that I did almost 2 months ago. Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
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Washington, D.C. 20460
[REDACTED]

Visit us at: www.epa.gov/waste/homeland

From: Watson, Cassie
Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2014 4:44 PM
To: OSWER ORCR EVERYONE
Cc: Carpenter, Wesley; Wilson, Howard; Huff, Mark J; Prince, Roy
Subject: Potomac Yard Odor Incident

As you are all aware, thanks to updates provided by ORCR management, SHEMD has been working with occupants of Potomac Yard North to address the odor incident that occurred on July 3, 2014. Please find the final indoor air quality report prepared by Dr. Hugh Granger, Ph.D, a toxicologist with HP Environmental, attached. Also attached is the final medical assessment report prepared by Dr. Christopher Holland, MD, with Federal Occupational Health.

If you have any questions, please be prepared to ask them at tomorrow's all-hands meeting at 9:00 am.

Respectfully,
Cassie Watson
Chief, Operations Branch
Safety, Health & Environmental Mgmt. Division



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Program Support Center

Federal Occupational Health Service
4550 Montgomery Avenue, Suite 950
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Christopher S. Holland, MD, MPH (p) 301-594-0272; (f) 4991

From: Christopher S. Holland, MD, MPH, FACEP, FACPM
To: Cassie Watson, Chief, Operations Branch, U.S. EPA
Subject: Medical Interviews for U.S. EPA Workers Exposed to a Pesticide at the
Potomac Yard North- 2733 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA. 26 August 2014

Introduction: This report summarizes my medical findings based on medical interviews conducted recently at the U.S. EPA's Potomac Yard North facility in Arlington, Virginia. I conducted 25 interviews during three half-day sessions at the site. My summary remarks herein are preliminary to any findings forthcoming from the environmental investigation. I am offering a health profile of the complainant population, the issues they raised, and the answers I provided to questions asked. My opinion may need to be amended as more information becomes available.

Incident & Consultation: On July 3, 2014, at about 9:30 a.m., an indoor air quality (IAQ) incident occurred on the fifth floor of the U.S. EPA facility called Potomac Yard North, at 2733 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA. The product involved is a household pesticide called "Garden Safe® Houseplant & Garden Insect Killer." The employee had purchased it in 2010, used it periodically and uneventfully, and it has remained on his office window sill up to the present incident. He sprayed his palm plant on July 3, but noticed that the spray was weak because only about 2 inches of the pesticide remained. He added water in a nearby pantry, filling the bottle to about two-thirds. He then shook it vigorously while returning to his office where he sprayed it liberally for about 15 seconds on a large potted floor-based palm plant. A pungent odor rapidly spread through his office and surrounding spaces and he opened up the stairwell doors to assist with ventilation. The plant was subsequently removed by the employee and two facilities workers on a dolly via the service elevator to the loading dock.

Reacting to the smell, the HVAC system was set to increase air exchanges and increase the percentage of fresh air, and the intention was to run the HVAC system over the holiday weekend, but that did not happen. After July 7, the employee involved had his office windows cleaned, and some carpet and ceiling tiles were replaced, and this seemed to greatly diminish the smell. About twenty-five percent of the floor carpet on the fifth floor was also cleaned. Over the ensuing days complaints about the smell abated and gradually stopped. Employees had difficulty describing the odor, some saying it was musty, or a petroleum smell, or a cat litter smell. It was impressively pungent. Some employees said it took their breath away. Many employees expressed their anxiety about being exposed to it, and described driving home, removing their clothes, and immediately showering and putting on fresh clothes. Due to persistent employee health complaints EPA consulted with Federal Occupational Health to obtain the services of a qualified occupational medicine physician. The purpose of this consultation was to perform medical interviews and clarify the status of employee's health complaints and to answer employees' health related questions. An environmental investigation was also initiated.

Agent, Dose, Transmission, and Exposure interval. If you are exposed to pyrethrins, many factors determine whether you'll be harmed. These factors include the dose (how much), the duration (how long), the mode of transmission, and the exposure interval. You must also consider other factors, including age, sex, diet, state of health, current medications, etc.

Before providing a summary of the medical interviews, I would like to comment briefly on the indoor contamination scenario, as I understand it.

AGENT. The product is a common household pesticide. The product is a branded product from "Garden Safe®" and it is labeled as "Garden Safe® Houseplant and Garden Insect Killer." The active ingredients are 0.02% pyrethrin and 0.2 % piperonyl butoxide. Other ingredients compose 99.78%. We do not, as yet, know specifically what these other ingredients are, but water would almost certainly be the majority of it.

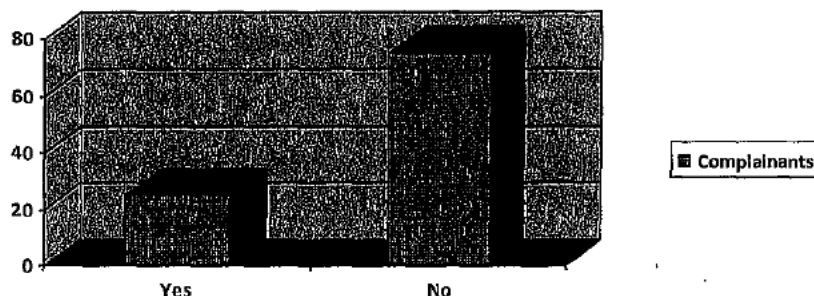
DOSE. About 2 inches of fluid remained in the 750 ml spray bottle. It was then further diluted from the sink tap in the office pantry. It was sprayed for about 15 seconds on a floor based palm plant. This is a simple mechanical sprayer which would not very effectively aerosolize the fluid.

MODE of TRANSMISSION. There are no reports of employees drinking or having direct skin contact with the fluid so the mode of transmission is exclusively respiratory. **EXPOSURE INTERVAL.** Workers nearby immediately noticed the odor and were quickly advised to take an early lunch break outside the building. Upon their return, they were advised to telework the remainder of the day. Gradually, all other occupants of the fifth floor were similarly advised. The point source of the contamination was removed quickly from the fifth floor. Fans and the

reset HVAC system further diluted the concentration of the chemical vapors. In short, the employees' exposure time was limited by managers acting decisively and directing employees to leave the building. Since it was a holiday weekend, most of the workers did not return to the building until July 7 or 8. **ODOR versus ACTIVE INGREDIENTS.** A pungent odor rapidly permeated the immediate area of the plant, eventually spreading to the stairwells and elevator shaft, the entire fifth floor, the lobby and parking area. Employees returning from an early lunch period stated that they could smell the odor half a block from their building. Some employees noted that the odor was stronger in the elevator and the parking area than on the fifth floor. This remarkable odor was wholly unexpected and needs to be explained. However, since we do not yet know the chemical reaction that explains the generation of this pungent odor, we will focus our attention on the active ingredients in the product: pyrethrin and piperonyl butoxide. We know that the concentration of these two active ingredients is very small, only 0.02% and 0.2% respectively, in the fresh product. In this particular case, the active ingredients might well have been further degraded by time and exposure to heat and sunlight (the plant was located at the juncture of two large windows). The amount of product that remained was diluted 2-3 times in water. Only a small portion of that solution was sprayed onto the plant before the employee stopped spraying. **TOXICITY.** The combination of these factors suggests that the concentration of pyrethrin and piperonyl butoxide available for exposure to the employees must be very low. It is an important point that while the degraded product somehow combined with the tap water to generate an incredibly robust, odiferous product, *the anticipated human toxicity from the active ingredients must be very low.*

Interviews. On August 5, 6, and 12, I spent four hours each day at the Potomac Yard North facility on the sixth floor. All of the fifth floor employees were invited to interview if they had health effects from the exposure. I interviewed, in total, 25 employees including the employee (by phone) who initiated the IAQ incident. The fifth floor is the official worksite for approximately 90 to 100 workers, so about 25% took the opportunity to be interviewed. Each interview averaged about ½ hour.

Graph#1: Percentage of employees with complaints



A spot map of the complainants indicates that while the point source of the contamination was in the airport side north corner office of the fifth floor, a concentration of complainants were not in this immediate vicinity, but rather along the street side north end of the floor. This observation cannot be fully explained at this time.

Age and gender demographic of the complainant population. On average, the complainants were (b) (6) years old (I do not have the demographic statistics for the non-complainant employee population on the fifth floor).



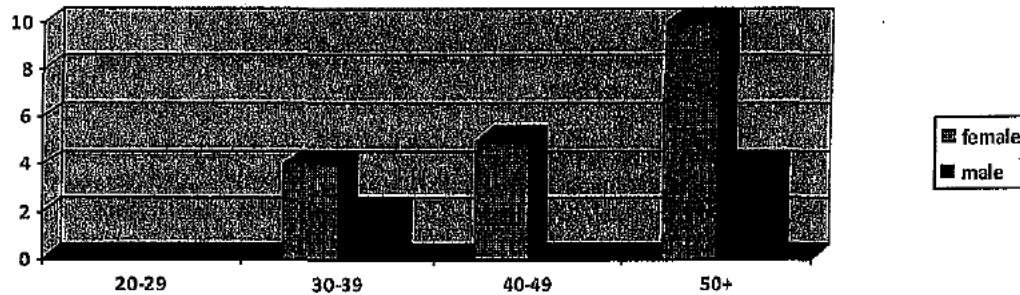
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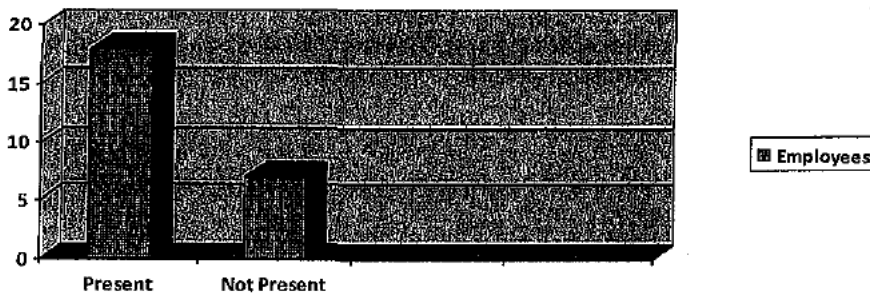
Christopher S. Holland, MD, MPH (p) 301-594-0272; (f) 4991

Graph#2: Distribution by age and gender



Not all of the complainants were working at the Potomac Yard North building when the contamination occurred on July 3. Of the 25 complainants, 18 were present and seven were absent. The complainants who were not present, in general, did not re-enter the building until July 7, 8, or later.

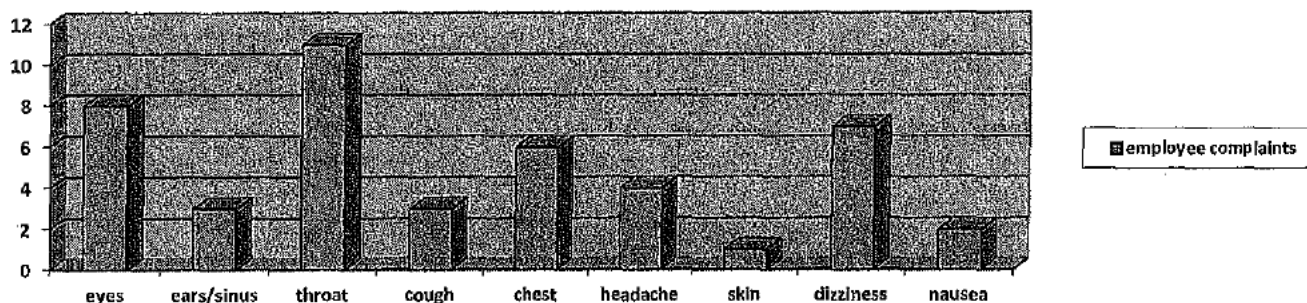
Graph#3: Complainants present and not present on July 3.



Employee health complaints. The employees' health complaints can be broadly characterized in the graph below. Many employees had more than one health complaint, and some were admittedly reacting more to the obnoxious odor than actually experiencing any specific symptom. An example would be the employee who stated that her feeling was more anxiety and tightness in her throat and chest because she was reluctant to breath freely due to concerns about the ambient atmosphere. Most symptomatic employees noted some combination of eye complaints such as sore or burning eyes, tight throat, and raspy voice. One employee, with a history of active asthma, did feel short of breath. Headaches were noted.

Possible coincidental complaints. There were three other employees with serious health events, but all occurred after July 3. (b) (6)

Graph #4: Distribution of symptoms.

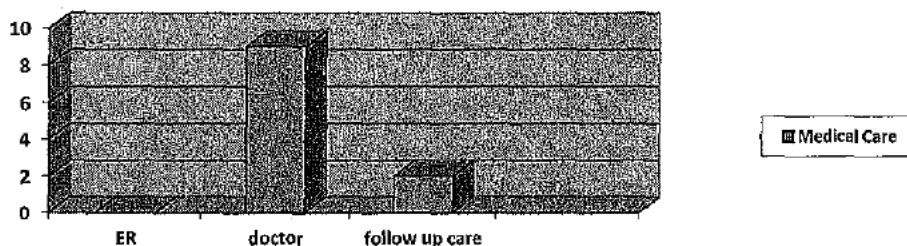


Graph Key. The above graphic illustration depicts the distribution of symptoms in general. "Eyes" includes complaints such as red, sore, watery, and/or burning eyes. "Ears/sinus" includes ear burning, face burning, and/or sinus congestion. "Throat" includes sore, burning, tight throat, raspy voice, and/or hoarse voice. "Cough" and "headache" are self-explanatory. "Chest" includes chest pain, tightness in chest, shortness of breath, and/or wheezing. "Skin" includes skin rash, itching, and /or blisters. "Dizziness" includes lightheadedness, disorientation, imbalanced, dizzy, and/or foggy headed. "Nausea" is self-explanatory.

Most complainants experienced more than one symptom. The progression of symptoms over time typically included eye symptoms, followed by throat symptoms, and, if the exposure continued or the person was particularly susceptible, chest symptoms. A typical scenario was burning eyes, followed by some throat soreness or burning/tightening, and cough with a raspy voice. A few would then also experience chest tightness, but not actual shortness of breath.

Medical Treatment. Emergency medical services were not called and I am not aware of any employees that sought urgent/emergent care on July 3. The following graph depicts the employees who obtained medical care after their workplace exposure, those who subsequently visited their regular doctor on an elective basis, and those that continue to see their doctor for symptoms they believed were associated with this incident. Nine employees noted visiting their doctor for relevant health complaints and two employees plan to continue visits for further evaluation.

Graph #5: Medical attention.



Medical Accommodation. On the day of the event, all employees were encouraged to telework the remainder of the day. The following week, teleworking was encouraged for employees with symptoms or concerns about returning to the building. I do not have accurate numbers, but my impression is that with the exception of one employee who noted taking one sick day, all employees were accommodated with telework or relocated to the south end of the floor or to the sixth floor. One employee was routinely in the process of being transferred to another facility. **To my knowledge, all employees have been working and no employee has remained on sick leave.**

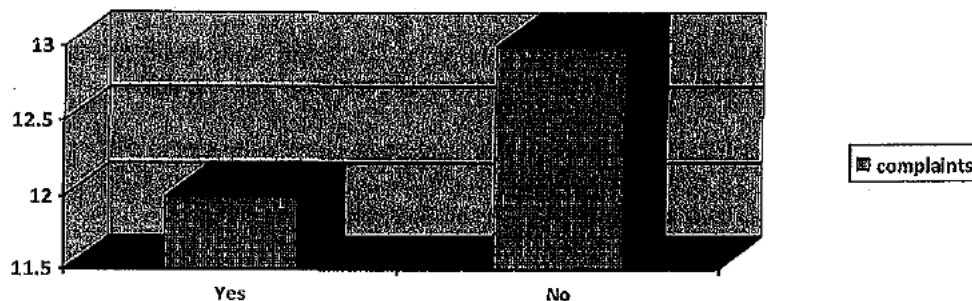
Residual Symptoms: Based on a review of my notes, the following graphic displays the percentage of employees that continued to experience symptoms at their current workstation at the time of my interview. Approximately 50% of employees continue to experience some symptoms, even in their accommodated workstation. These symptoms tend to be mild and sporadic, such as a raspy voice, occasional cough, and occasional eye soreness.



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Graph#6: Number of employees who had active symptoms at the time of my interview.



Workers' Compensation: I am unaware of any employee that had filed papers for Workers Compensation at the time of the interview. Three to four employees asked me specific questions about Workers Compensation, and I conclude that at least two were seriously considering submitting paperwork.

Q&A during the interviews.

Not all of the interview time was spent in discussing the employee's health issues. The employees had many questions about the exposure and the toxicity of the product, and strongly opined that little communication had been broadcast to them. This is a summary of the types of questions and answers.

What product was used by the employee and why do we not know what all of the ingredients are? Ans: The product is a branded product from "Garden Safe®" and it is labeled as "Garden Safe® Houseplant and Garden Insect Killer." The active ingredients are 0.02% Pyrethrin and 0.2 % Piperonyl Butoxide. Other Ingredients compose 99.78% are proprietary. We do not know specifically what these ingredients are (water would almost certainly be the majority of it), but they are not listed as active ingredients.

I understand it is a commonly used product. Is that true? Ans: Pyrethrum and pyrethrins have been used as insecticides since at least 1800 and for decades have been the most commonly used home and garden insecticides in the U.S.¹ They are often used in indoor sprays, pet shampoos, and aerosol bombs to kill flying and jumping insects. In part, because they are so commonly used, pyrethrins are a common cause of insecticide poisonings.

What are pyrethrins? Ans. Pyrethrins are natural insecticides produced by certain species of chrysanthemum plant. They are contact poisons, which quickly penetrate the nervous system of the insect. A few minutes after application, the insect cannot move or fly away. However, a "knockout dose" does not mean a killing dose. The natural pyrethrins are swiftly detoxified by enzymes in the insect. Thus, some pests will recover. To delay the enzyme action so a lethal dose is assured, synergists, like piperonyl butoxide, are added.

If pyrethrins are effective insecticides, how can it be OK for human exposure? Ans. Pyrethrins, like all members of the parathyroid insecticide family, kill insects by disrupting their nervous systems. Pyrethrins are toxic to the "sodium channel," the cellular structure that allows sodium ions to enter a cell as part of the process of transmitting a nerve impulse. This leads to repetitive discharges by the nerve cell, which causes paralysis, and death. DDT and related insecticides have the same mode of action. Nerves in humans and other mammals are susceptible to pyrethrin poisoning; however, when used correctly, considerations of dose, absorption, bio-availability and the fact that humans have enzymes that rapidly detoxify pyrethrins into compounds that do not disrupt the nervous system, mitigate this risk.¹¹

What symptoms are expected after an acute exposure to pyrethrins? Ans: If you get a large amount of pyrethrins on your skin, you may get feelings of numbness, itching, burning, stinging, tingling, or warmth that could last for a few hours. Other serious symptoms could occur if a large amount was ingested. In this exposure scenario, there was no ingestion or direct skin contact. The dose of pyrethrin was much too low in the ambient atmosphere to cause serious symptoms; but if very large amounts of these chemicals were to enter your body, you might

experience dizziness, headache, and nausea that might last for several hours. Larger amounts might cause muscle twitching, reduced energy, and changes in awareness. Even larger amounts could cause convulsions and loss of consciousness that could last for several days. Remember that in this incident, the concentration of the active ingredients available to employees through the respiratory route must be very low and well below the OSHA PEL for pyrethrin exposure.

Do pyrethrins cause an allergic reaction? Ans. The data for humans is inconclusive, but in animal studies, sensitization does seem to occur. Allergic reactions have been seen in a few individuals who used products that contain pyrethrins. Considering the dose, duration of exposure, and mode of transmission, in this scenario it is unlikely that a true allergic reaction occurred.

Will this bio accumulate in my body and cause chronic health effects? Ans. Based on the information available, it appears that any amounts of pyrethrin absorbed would be rapidly excreted. Therefore, it is unlikely that they would accumulate in humans.

Do pyrethrins cause cancer? Ans. There is evidence from animal studies that pyrethrins might be capable of causing cancer, but the evidence comes from animals that ate very large amounts of pyrethrins for a lifetime. In a recent review of the relevant scientific data, the EPA could not classify pyrethrins into a carcinogenicity group. No carcinogenic status has been established for pyrethrins.

Do pyrethrins cause reproductive problems or birth defects? Ans. There is no evidence that they have caused reproductive problems or birth defects in humans.

Can I pass pyrethrins in my breast milk? Ans. There are animal studies that suggest that it can be passed in breast milk. It is highly unlikely, in the expected concentrations in this incident, that there would be transmission of pyrethrins in breast milk. You are, of course, encouraged to discuss it with your OBGYN doctor.

Are certain individuals at a heightened risk from this exposure? Ans: Yes. Persons with chronic respiratory disease or active asthma can have their disease exacerbated by exposure. Persons with pre-existing skin disease who have direct skin contact with pyrethrins are more susceptible to dermatitis from exposure.

Is there a medical test to determine how much pyrethrin was absorbed? Ans. Methods exist that can detect pyrethrins in blood and urine. Because pyrethrins break down in the body rapidly, these methods are useful only if exposure has occurred within a few days from the exposure incident. Since the exposure occurred on July 3, testing would not be useful now. Additionally, these methods can tell only if you have been exposed to pyrethrins and cannot tell if you will have any adverse health effects.

How toxic is piperonyl butoxide? Ans. It appears to be of low toxicity in humans.

Does piperonyl butoxide cause reproductive or birth defects? Ans. There is no evidence that it does in humans.

Will this insecticide product persist in our work environment? Ans: Outdoors, pyrethrins persist only for a short time. For example, after application of pyrethrins to bare soil, the half-life (the time required for half of the applied pyrethrin to break down or move away from the application site) was two hours or less.³³ However, pyrethrins persist much longer indoors than they do outdoors. In some studies, up to two months when heavy concentrations of pyrethrin settled in carpet dust. However, the expected concentration of pyrethrin in this scenario is very low and almost certainly not measurable at this point in time.

Conclusion: On July 3, an IAQ incident involving a household pesticide occurred on the fifth floor of the U.S. EPA occupied Potomac Yard North building. About 90 to 100 EPA employees have their official worksite on the fifth floor. Twenty-five employees requested medical interviews and expressed health concerns. Although many questions and concerns were raised and discussed herein, three issues predominate. **What caused this incredible smell?** We do not yet have the definitive answer to that important question. It is likely that the odor was due to a degradation product interacting with the added tap water. A more detailed understanding will hopefully be forthcoming with the completion of the environmental inspection. **How toxic was my exposure?** Very low. **Why do I continue to have symptoms?** I cannot answer this question definitively. The overall prevalence of symptoms is tapering with time. Most employees' residual symptoms are mild and sporadic. Employees with residual symptoms may be still be healing from the effects of an irritant reaction to the original insult. There is no information at this time that suggests that there will be serious chronic health effects, carcinogenic effects, or reproductive effects due to this workplace exposure.

I hope this information has been useful to management and to the individual employees I interviewed.



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Respectfully submitted,

Christopher S. Holland, MD, MPH
FACEP, FACPM
Federal Occupational Health
U.S. Public Health Service

ⁱ Whitmore, R.W., J.E. Kelly, and P.L. Reading. 1992. National home and garden pesticide use survey. Final report, vol. 1: Executive summary, results, and recommendations. Research Triangle Park NC: Research Triangle Institute. Table G-1.

ⁱⁱ Ray, D.E. and P.J. Forshaw. 2000. Pyrethroid insecticides: Poisoning syndromes, synergies, and therapies. *Clin. Toxicol.* 38:95-101.

ⁱⁱⁱ World Health Organization and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2000. Pesticide residues in food—2000. Evaluations Part 1—Residues. *FAO Plant Production and Protection Paper* 165. p. 700.

**IAQ Incident Involving Insecticide Application and Acute Odorant Release:
A Retrospective Review**

Prepared For: Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG)
USEPA/OARM/OA/SEMD

Review Conducted By: HP Environmental, Inc.

Report Prepared By: R. Hugh Granger, Ph.D.
HP Environmental, Inc.

Report Release Date: August 26, 2014

Principal Investigator:

Co-investigator:

R. Hugh Granger, Ph.D.
Toxicologist

Jonathon Hall, MPH, MS, CIH
Industrial Hygienist

Preamble and Summary

Unfortunately, on July 3rd of this year, on the 5th floor of your building, there was a sudden, unexpected IAQ incident that had an effect on occupant health and the ability for you to be productive and feel safe in your workspace. The IAQ incident was unique in that the initiating event appeared routine, but there was clear indication that what occurred was anything but routine. The IAQ incident raised the possibility of exposure to an insecticide, resulted in exposure to an odorant/irritant, and produced occupant health effects including eye, throat and sinus irritation, cough, chest tightness, headache, and lightheadedness. Perhaps most importantly, the IAQ incident resulted in uncertainty about occupant safety, including unanswered questions such as: what happened, what are the health risks, why are some still experiencing symptoms, and why did it take so long to get the facts out?

The following report is a retrospective technical review of this IAQ incident. It presents details that help to describe the event and circumstances leading up to the IAQ incident. It details potential sources for the chemical release and odor, and postulates on the most likely mechanism consistent with the facts. It addresses exposure risks and discusses similarities in health effects reported following other similar incidents.

While hindsight is always 20/20, this is what we now know.

1. The IAQ incident is almost certainly directly linked to the use of a household insecticide and that the use of the insecticide did not involve a spill or use of the product outside its labeled instructions. The product itself had been in the building for over three years and was routinely used without incident. (While the simple fact that the IAQ incident involved this insecticide product may appear self-evident to most, significant effort was expended to establish that no other building-related event was the cause of this IAQ incident.)
2. The contents and concentration of the insecticide product are known and are consistent with the container label. The purchase, source, and custody of the insecticide product were established with confidence.
3. The potential for toxicologically relevant exposure of office occupants to the insecticide product (pyrethrins) is remote. This was deduced from calculation of worst-case air concentrations following theoretical instantaneous release of the product into the air of a confined single office environment. These calculated air concentrations were more than 2 orders of magnitude below the current OSHA permissible exposure limit (PEL), NIOSH REL and ACGIH TLV. It is highly unlikely that health effects reported by 5th floor occupants were related to pyrethrins.

4. It is postulated that the odorants released into the 5th floor office space were degradation by-products of the household insecticide product, a product that itself has very little odor. The insecticide product components, specifically, very low concentrations of pyrethrins (insecticide) and piperonyl butoxide (synergist) [pip•ron•neil butte•oxide] in aqueous solution, are known to degrade on exposure to UV light (sunlight). We also know the insecticide product was stored on or near a credenza located next to a large glass window spandrel with periods of direct exposure to sunlight for over three (3) years. Primary degradation products of piperonyl butoxide retain the piperonyl group and are medium to strong odorants (piperonyl is derived from the manufacturing precursor - sassafras oil). It is further postulated that these odorants accumulated within the insecticide product container forming a residue on the container's internal surfaces. These residues were then re-solubilized when water was added to the product container and it was vigorously shaken. The July 3rd application of approximately 15 mL of this degraded insecticide product is the likely source of odorants that were the hallmark of this IAQ incident.
5. Odorants that are degradation products of piperonyl butoxide are likely irritants. At low air concentrations, irritants can produce the spectrum of health effects reported by some of the 5th floor occupants. These health effects are mediated by both the olfactory receptors (sense of smell) as well as stimulation of trigeminal nerve receptors of the face (eyes, throat, nasal cavity). Occupants may continue to experience symptoms if exposure to the odor or irritant continues or if there is continued uncertainty about the quality of the indoor air.
6. All reasonable effort has been made to remove odorant and insecticide sources from the 5th floor that are related to this incident. Special odor adsorbent filters remain on the main air handler units. Building ventilation and other aspects of indoor air quality have been, and will be, optimized both for the 5th floor as a whole, and on a case-by-case individual basis, with the goal of achieving occupant satisfaction with their indoor environment. This process will take some time to be fully effective.
7. There is currently no toxicological-based rationale for avoidance of the 5th floor although continued experience of health effects by some occupants may preclude satisfactory re-introduction for these occupants.

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Statement of Work

Conduct a retrospective technical review of available information and data related to an indoor air/environmental quality incident that occurred on the 5th floor of an urban "Class A" office building.

Produce a report describing:

- 1) Details of the initiating event,
- 2) Details of the indoor air quality incident including occupant reported health effects,
- 3) Insecticide products, agents, chemicals and odorants involved or released, and
- 4) Conclusions with recommendations for follow-up as appropriate.

Methods

Review all available written accounts and correspondence related to the IAQ incident and initiating events that may be relevant and necessary to construct a complete description of the initiating event and IAQ incident.

Conduct interviews with key persons involved in the initiating event and IAQ incident as necessary to construct a complete description of the initiating event and IAQ incident.

Facilitate consultations with subject matter experts as necessary to identify or postulate the circumstances, causes and effects of the IAQ incident.

Goal and Objectives

Provide a summary of event information, potential incident related agent/chemical sources, and exposure and risk assessment to be used for communication with building occupants.

Provide IAQ incident analysis and follow-up recommendations to assist in planning that is intended to promote and maintain acceptable IAQ at the site.

Provide reporting and communication to assist medical providers who treat patients following the IAQ incident.

Limitations

The review is commissioned approximately 5 weeks post-event. Odors associated with the incident are no longer reported by building occupants. The insecticide product and the plant that was treated with the insecticide product are no longer available for examination or testing. Prior to this review, materials such as carpets and ceiling tiles located in the insecticide over-spray zone, as well as building surfaces on the 5th floor including windows, carpets and furnishings, have been cleaned to remove potential residues of the insecticide. For these and other reasons, exposure assessment shall be estimated using best available data and/or information, including product labeled ingredients and concentrations.

1. Introduction and Background

The following report presents a retrospective technical review of an indoor air quality (IAQ) incident, a review that was initiated 4 weeks after the triggering event for the incident. The analysis and conclusions presented are products of a process that included interviews with building occupants to clarify their reported circumstances and personal observations and a medical symptom survey intended to document physical experiences and health effects. It is important to understand that this review benefited from having a 2-week period to gather and analyze information, solicit input from several subject matter experts, and work through various hypotheses for the source and cause of this incident. The overall goal of the study was to facilitate a path toward recovery following this IAQ incident.

While this report does not present a complete picture or analysis of the dynamic of the "real-time" response to the incident, the report does present several features of the events that had an impact on that short-term response. For example, most occupants and responders had little doubt that the source of the IAQ incident was a bottle of common household "plant" insecticide. Furthermore, the product was so commonly used in everyday circumstances that the perceived health risk by the occupants and responders was very low. Quite naturally the action of removing the bottle of household insecticide, and the plant on which it was applied, made perfect sense. It was expected that this action would resolve the "problem". In fact, once the product and plant were removed from the space, and the odor began to subside, it was generally reported that the indoor environment was returning to normal. It was surprising when there was a following wave of concern as the odor persisted for more than a week and initial reports of delayed adverse health effects were received.

The odor was the predominant confounding feature this IAQ incident and it had a clear impact on the dynamics of the short-term and long-term response. That is, the presence of the "unusual" odor was both unexpected and pungent, and it appeared to be emanating from a common "odorless" insecticide product. The odor could not be described based on previous experiences of the 5th floor occupant's or reconciled with the general assessment that the product was "safe". As a result, in the days and weeks following the triggering event, a concern that the odor warned of an exposure to an insecticide with an unknown level health risk began to evolve. This evolving concern was offset against a gradual reduction and almost resolution of the odor experience and general re-occupancy of the space without physical effects for some of the staff. Despite many indications that the 5th floor indoor environment was returning to an acceptable quality, health effects lingered for some occupants; some occupants experienced discomfort when occupying at least some areas on the 5th floor, and the entire experience remained generally disconcerting.

With the goal of advancing the process toward full recovery from this IAQ incident, this report presents all available information describing the initiating events and the progression of the incident. It provides background on the chemistry, formulation, labeled use, and toxicology of the insecticide product and offers postulated scenarios for the source of the odor. The report documents the reported health effects and discusses the role of the olfactory sense and chemo-receptor/irritant response associated facial sensation via trigeminal innervation. Although this report describes the actions taken to date to resolve the IAQ incident and to protect the occupants of the 5th floor, the report does not attempt to present an in-depth critique of these actions. Finally, the report presents additional measures that can be taken to blend the final IAQ incident response with general building indoor air quality management and looks ahead with suggestions for areas of focus as discussions move toward means and methods to limit the potential for a repeat of this IAQ incident.

2. Event Description

On the morning of July 3, 2014, a routine household insecticide application was performed by a tenant employee to treat an indoor plant located in an office on the 5th floor of a commercial, Class-A, urban office building. Nearby building occupants subsequently identified this event as the source of an IAQ incident impacting a significant portion of the building's 5th floor.

2.1. Background and Circumstances

A perimeter corner office space measuring approximately 12' x 18' was occupied by a single person. For approximately 3.5 years a plant, which was given to that person as a gift, was positioned in this officeⁱ. The plant, a Ponytail Palm (*Beaucarnea recurvate*), hosted colonies of mealybugs (*Maconellicoccus hirsutus*) for most of the previous 3.5-years. At the same time the plant was placed in the office a single bottle of household insecticide was purchased to control the mealybugs. This insecticide product was identified as "Garden Safe® Brand Houseplant & Garden Insect Killer"ⁱⁱ. The product was contained in a 750 mL bottle equipped with a manual "trigger" spraying apparatus. The bottle of insecticide was stored near the plant in the office where it was exposed to sunlight. Approximately once every 4-6 weeks the insecticide was applied to the plant and these treatments were effective in controlling the mealybugs. Use of this insecticide product continued in the office area without incident for approximately 3.5 years, prior to July 3, 2014.

On July 3, 2014 the office occupant began the routine process of applying the insecticide to the ponytail palm. At this time the bottle of insecticide was reported to be approximately 20% full, containing approximately 150 mL of liquid insecticide product. This remaining amount of insecticide (150 mL) is consistent with a consumption rate of 40 applications of 15 mL each over 3.5 years. Initially this last application began without incident and was estimated to involve 1-3 sprays. However, it was found that the quantity of liquid insecticide remaining in the product spray bottle was too low to allow the bottle to be tilted and the internal straw that feeds the sprayer to remain in contact with the liquid so that the sprayer would remain primed for application. For this reason the office occupant walked to a nearby office pantry and dispensed approximately between 150 - 300 mL of tap water from the pantry sink into the bottle. As the employee walked back to the office to continue the spray application, the bottle was vigorously shaken to mix the tap water with the remaining contents of the bottle. Nothing out of the ordinary was noticed when adding the water until the insecticide application was restarted and then, within a short period of time, the

occupant detected an odor. At that moment, the spray application was discontinued.

2.2. Analysis/Conclusions

Based on available information, including anecdotal reports, there is no indication that the insecticide product was spilled, released, or otherwise used in a manner inconsistent with labeled instructions. It is our opinion that dilution of this insecticide product with uncontaminated potable water is not outside the label instructions for this product. Furthermore, it is our opinion that dilution of this insecticide product with uncontaminated potable water is not considered "mixing" as addressed on the product label. No deleterious effect would be anticipated following dilution of this insecticide product with uncontaminated domestic potable water.

3. Incident Description

During the post-dilution application of the insecticide product, and immediately after, the occupant making the application detected a significant odor and recognized the condition as abnormal. The odor quickly spread inside the corner office and into the hallway triggering an IAQ incident on the 5th floor.

3.1. Odor description and movement

A short time after the insecticide application, occupants located near the corner office detected an odor. In the days and weeks that followed, the majority of occupants on the 5th floor also reported an odor. Description of the odor varied, including a burnt smell, but the most remarkable feature of the odor was the difficulty most occupants had in associating the type of odor with any of their previous experiences.

The odor was initially reported concentrated at the point of the insecticide application however the odor soon spread throughout the north end of the space as the fire stairwell doors were opened in an effort to exhaust the odor from the space. Subsequently the ponytail palm was removed from the office as was the insecticide bottle and this coincided with reports that the odor was moving away from the 5th floor, eventually being detected in an area where the plant was positioned on a building's loading dock before disposal. In the days following the IAQ incident, a few persons with offices on the south end of the 5th floor, some distance from the insecticide application, also reported detecting an odor.

3.2. Initial Response Actions

The combination of pungent odor, uncertainty about the nature and source of the odor, and health symptoms reported by some building occupants resulted in relocation of most staff away from the source of the odor within hours of the IAQ incident. In some cases, occupants relocated to other buildings or worked from home. In other cases persons not on the 5th floor at the time of the July 3rd event reported an odor in their workspace when they returned the following week. In some of these cases these 5th floor occupants elected to relocate or work remotely.

In the days and weeks following the IAQ incident, several actions were taken to reduce the frequency and intensity of the reported odor and to reduce any potential for exposure to the insecticide. These actions included:

1. Removing potential odorant sources, including the container of insecticide and the treated plant,
2. Removing carpet and ceiling tiles in the area of insecticide application,
3. Carpet cleaning approximately 25% of the 5th floor,
4. Cleaning wall, window, and furniture surfaces on the 5th floor,
5. Increasing the 5th floor ventilation rate (that is, increasing the indoor/outdoor air changes), and
6. Installing supplemental charcoal filters on the main 5th floor air handler unit.

3.3. Building Inspection for Alternative Odor Sources

Essentially all occupants on the 5th floor associated the indoor application of the insecticide product with the sudden release of an odorant into their workspace. These reports are paradoxical, as use of this insecticide product, even when accompanied with reports of adverse health effects, has never included a report of odor. Obviously one solution to this paradox would be that there was a simultaneous but separate odorant release unrelated to the insecticide application. This possibility was investigated.

As noted, the initial odor was focused near the northeast corner of the 5th floor, essentially within the office where the insecticide product was applied to a houseplant. Careful examination of this office area did not identify any other obvious odorant source other than the insecticide product used in this office. Furthermore, examination of building ventilation system components serving the 5th floor, including the main air handling unit, the air distribution boxes mounted above the ceiling tiles (VAV boxes and fan-powered terminal units), and the open return air plenum, did not identify any other source for the odor. Building

maintenance conditions were also considered for possible sources of odor, including: failure or overheating of motors, belts, gears, electrical equipment and/or wiring. No suspect condition was identified. Odor sources outside the building were also considered but the outdoor air supplied to the 5th floor also supplies the remainder of the building where no odor was detected (except as explained by opening of the stairwell doors and movement of the treated plant off the 5th floor). Based on these building inspections and other corroborating details, it was concluded that the odorant involved in this IAQ incident was indeed directly related to the insecticide product. The paradox remains unresolved, as the insecticide product's ingredients do not emit a significant odor.

3.4. Reported Adverse Health Effects

A medical survey of symptoms and health effects was conducted and reported separately. (Reference: Memorandum dated 13 August 2014. *"Medical Interviews for U.S. EPA Workers Exposed to a Pesticide at the Potomac Yard North- 2733 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA"* Christopher S. Holland, MD, MPH, U.S. Public Health Service). From this medical report, the following health effects are noted as reported:

1. Red, sore, watery, burning eyes.
2. Ear burning, face burning, sinus congestion,
3. Sore, burning, tight throat, raspy voice, hoarse voice,
4. Cough,
5. Headache,
6. Chest pain, tightness in chest, shortness of breath, wheezing,
7. Skin rash, itching, blisters,
8. Lightheadedness, disorientation, imbalanced, dizzy, foggy headed, and
9. Nausea.

Following the IAQ incident, no emergency medical treatment was reported for any occupant. Approximately 25% of 5th floor occupants interviewed have seen their personal physician. Two occupants have not returned to work pending medical clearance.

The most predominant of these reported symptoms can share a common etiology; stimulation of the olfactory receptors located in the nasal epithelium (1st cranial nerve) and stimulation of facial sensory receptors associated with the nasal cavity, ears, throat, eyes, and facial skin (5th cranial nerve or trigeminal nerve). These nerve receptors play an integrate role in the expression of symptoms following exposure to odorants and irritant chemicals.

A full discussion of the role olfactory sense and trigeminal facial receptor modulation of human response following exposure to odorant/irritant chemicals is beyond the scope of this report. A list of reference materials is nevertheless provided if additional background on the subject is desired.

1. Health Effects of Indoor Odorants. James E. Cone, Dennis Shusterman. Environmental Health Perspectives. Vol. 95, pp. 53-59, 1991
2. Indoor Air Chemistry – Olfaction and Sensory Irritation – An Overview. Peder Wolkoff. Geophysical Research Abstracts, Vol. 7, 09215, 2005.
3. Odor-associated Health Complaints: Competing Explanatory Models. Dennis Shusterman. Chem Senses, 26, 339-343, 2001.
4. Olfaction. Update No. 5. John C. Leffingwell, Ph.D. Leffingwell Reports, Vol. 2 (No. 1), May, 2002.
5. Organic compounds in office environments – sensory irritation, odor, measurements and the role of reactive chemistry. P. Wolkoff, C. K. Wilkins, P. A. Clausen, G. D. Nielsen. Indoor Air 2005
6. The "Gray Line" Between Odor Nuisance and Health Effects. Michael A. McGinley, Proceedings of Air and Waste Management Association. 92nd Annual Meeting and Exhibition. St. Louis, Mo: 20-24 June 1999.

Other factors can play an important role in the complex timing and expression of health effects following an odorant/irritant exposure incident. For example, it is common for trigeminal nerve mediated responses to be delayed; a delay that may be related to toxicological effects impacting the receptor proteins. In addition, the sense of smell (olfactory) is closely related to an organism's preservation and defense mechanisms. The result is a memory effect or sensitization to odor response that produces interesting interplay between physiological and psychological effects.

A full discussion of symptomology features related to human response to odorants/irritants is beyond the scope of this report. A list of reference materials is nevertheless provided if additional background on the subject is desired.

1. The influence of cognitive bias on the perceived odor, irritation and health symptoms from chemical exposure. Dalton P, Wysocki CJ, Brody MJ, Lawley HJ., International archives of occupational and environmental health. 69:6 1997 pg 407-17.
2. Effect of Acute Exposure to a Complex Fragrance on Lexical Decision Performance. Daniel E. Gaygen. Alan Hedge. Chem. Senses 34: 85-91, 2009.
3. The influence of health-risk perception and distress on reactions to low-level chemical exposure. Andersson L, Claesson AS, Ledin L, Wisting F, Nordin S., Front Psychol. 2013 Nov 5;4:816.

3.5. IAQ Incident: Current Status

At the outset of this technical review, occupants of the 5th floor rarely reported detectable odor. Nevertheless, some occupants indicate that the odor remains

a health concern and a nuisance. Interviews conducted by an occupational physician suggest the residual concern is related to uncertainty about linkage between the odor and exposure to the applied insecticide.

The building ventilation systems have been returned to standard operational settings, carpet and ceiling tiles that were removed have been replaced, and the general work environment has returned to normal for most occupants. Communications based on findings from this technical review are scheduled shortly after release of this report.

3.6. Analysis/Conclusions

The IAQ incident involves two components; (1) the potential release of, and occupant exposure to, a common household insecticide and (2) the release of an odorant with an effect that persisted in the indoor environment for several weeks. Both components of this IAQ incident are related to use of a common insecticide product. The reported health effects associated with the IAQ incident are consistent with exposure to an odorant/irritant chemical. Response actions including removal of insecticide product sources and optimization of mechanical ventilation of the space improved the quality of the indoor environment and occupant satisfaction with the indoor environment. The odor related to the IAQ incident is no longer detected with any consistency and most occupants have returned to work on the 5th floor.

4. Insecticide Product Ingredients

The "Garden Safe® Brand Houseplant & Garden Insect Killer" product, and closely related products manufactured and sold by various entities under many different trade names, contains a very low concentration of active insecticide and synergist, ingredients noted for their inherently low mammalian toxicity and limited environmental impact. The active insecticide and synergist found in these products are approved for use on foodstuffs, with food consumption being the primary source for exposure of the general population to this insecticide.

4.1. Insecticide product composition

"Garden Safe® Brand Houseplant & Garden Insect Killer" contains two reported ingredients, Pyrethrins (I) (this insecticide accounts for 0.02% of the total product) and Piperonyl Butoxide (referred to as "PBO", this non-insecticide synergist accounts for 0.2% of the total product). These two product components are dissolved in water (aqueous solution) and together represent the entire reported product composition (100%).

Unreported components typical for pyrethrin-based insecticide products include unreacted synthesis precursor and various stabilizing agents. Safrole (purified from sassafras oil) is the predominant unreacted precursor in insecticide formulations similar to "Garden Safe® Brand Houseplant & Garden Insect Killer"¹ (Reference: WHO Specifications and Evaluations for Public Health Pesticides - Piperonyl Butoxide). Safrole content is specified at less than 0.1% of PBO raw product, and the concentration in a final insecticide formulation would be less than 0.0002%.

Historically, products such as "Garden Safe® Brand Houseplant & Garden Insect Killer" would contain trace amounts of antioxidants and ultra-violet light absorbers (e.g. pyrocatechol, pyrogallol, hydroquinone, benzene-320-naphthol). Currently, the best information suggests that pyrethrin-based insecticide formulations no longer contain stabilizing agents, in part because of cost and in part because they have been determined to be ineffective.

A single 750 mL container of "Garden Safe® Brand Houseplant & Garden Insect Killer" contains a total of 150 mg of pyrethrins and 1.5 g of PBO. At the time of the application of this insecticide on July 3rd, it is estimated that 30 mg of pyrethrins and 300 mg of PBO remained in the product container. It is estimated that 15 mL of product was dispensed during each application on the office plant; an application that was repeated 40 times over the 3.5 year period the product was present in the office. It is estimated that each application event dispensed 3 mg of pyrethrins and 30 mg of PBO. Dispensed pyrethrins degrade via photo-hydrolysis with a half-life of approximately 4 days. It is estimated that the pyrethrins dispensed during each application to the plant on the 5th floor will degrade within 1-3 months.

4.2. Pyrethrins toxicology

Pyrethrins (I) are the insecticidal component of the "Garden Safe® Brand Houseplant & Garden Insect Killer". These are a naturally occurring group of three chemically related esters (esters of chrysanthemic acid), each of which is insecticidally active.

Pyrethrins can be absorbed across the gastrointestinal tract and pulmonary membranes, but only slightly across intact skin. They are quickly hydrolyzed to

¹ Some pathways for the synthesis of PBO do not use safrol as a precursor. At this time we have not been able to establish which pathway was used for the synthesis of PBO used for the Garden Safe® Brand.

inert products by mammalian liver enzymes. This rapid degradation and poor bioavailability results in their relatively low mammalian toxicity.

Pyrethrins are one of the most common household insecticides in the United States, in large part as a result of their low mammalian toxicity, low environmental persistence, and slow resistance development in pests. Pyrethrins-containing dusts are used to control agricultural insects and are approved for use on foodstuffs. Pyrethrins are also the active ingredient in lice control preparations including shampoos and lotions. Pyrethrins are the most common ingredient in household "bug sprays" and bombs.

A full discussion of the toxicology of pyrethrins is beyond the scope of this report. A list of reference materials is provided if additional background on the subject is desired.

1. Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisonings - Sixth Edition, 2013. James R. Roberts, J. Routt Reigart, M.D. *Medical University of South Carolina*.
2. Public Health Statement - Pyrethrins and Pyrethroids. Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.
3. Pyrethrin and Pyrethroid illnesses in the Pacific Northwest: A Five-Year Review. *Public Health Reports* / January-February 2009 / Volume 124. P 149.
4. Environmental Fate of Pyrethrins. Amrith S. Gunasekara. Environmental Monitoring Branch Department of Pesticide Regulation. November 2004 (Revised 2005)

4.3. Odor and piperonyl butoxide decomposition

Pyrethrins, PBO and the "Garden Safe® Brand Houseplant & Garden Insect Killer" product do not exhibit an odor, and reports of odors following use of this product on July 3rd remain an unresolved paradox. Without chemical characterization of the offending insecticide product, the solution to this paradox can only be speculated.

One plausible explanation for the IAQ incident odor is decomposition of PBO. Decomposition of PBO is likely to produce a series of chemical homologues that share similar structural features with known odorants. The question remains, what would explain the sudden production of an odorant from a product that was previously stable and used on multiple occasions without odor incident?

Increased degradation (hydrolysis) reaction rate of PBO is linked to both UV light exposure and/or exposure to oxidizing agents. Thus, two potential explanations for the production of odorants from PBO can be postulated. The first is exposure of the insecticide product to direct sunlight (and perhaps heat) prior to the events of July 3rd. This scenario is plausible based on the floor-to-ceiling glass window wall forming one side of the office where the plant is located and where the insecticide product was stored. The second is the

presence of oxidizing agents (e.g. nitrite, other corrosion control agents, chlorine, or low (<5) or high (> 9) pH) in the building's domestic water supply. Water conditions related to this scenario can be evaluated by testing of the building's domestic water supply at the dispensing tap on the 5th floor (results from testing were negative and will be presented under a following "Water testing" header).

A full discussion of the chemistry of piperonyl butoxide is beyond the scope of this report. A list of reference materials is provided if additional background on the subject is desired.

1. The UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE. 2,485,680 DIHYDROSAFROL DERIVATIVES. Herman Wachs, Brooklyn, N. Y., Application April 1, 1946, Serial No. 658,872
2. Piperonyl Butoxide – The Insecticide Synergist. Ed. D Glynne Jones. Academic Press. 1998

4.4. Exposure assessment

Notwithstanding the inherently low mammalian toxicity of the insecticide found in the product related to this IAQ incident, there have been numerous reports of adverse health effects following exposure to pyrethrins. These reports rarely involve products similar to the "Garden Safe® Brand Houseplant & Garden Insect Killer" but are instead related to products that contain higher concentrations of pyrethrins and that are applied directly to skin and hair, or dispensed as saturation fogs. A recently completed US EPA review of poison control reports of pyrethrin-related incidents concluded that pyrethrins remain safe for domestic use.

Inhalation

The current concentration of pyrethrins in the building indoor air does not reflect the conditions on July 3rd. Nevertheless, it is possible to calculate a maximum theoretical concentration of pyrethrins in the indoor air immediately following the July 3rd insecticide application. For example, following an application of 15 mL of the "Garden Safe® Brand Houseplant & Garden Insect Killer", and assuming an instantaneous vaporization and distribution of all pyrethrins contained in this application into the confined office indoor air (12' x 18' x 8' office dimensions), the maximum theoretical pyrethrins air concentration would be 50 micrograms/m³ (rounding to one significant figure). For comparison, the current OSHA PEL and ACGIH TLV for pyrethrins is 5,000 micrograms/m³ as an 8-hour time-weighted average. Of course this estimation of the pyrethrins air concentration is unrealistically conservative, as it does not account for the low pyrethrin vapor pressure, the dilution of the indoor air on the 5th floor, or the

removal of pyrethrins by indoor/outdoor air changes. Based on this estimated air concentration, it is unlikely that the July 3rd insecticide application would have produced toxicologically relevant exposures.

Dermal contact

Dermal contact with pyrethrins is common and several pyrethrin-based shampoos; lotions and skin sprays are approved for human use. These products contain pyrethrins at 10-15 times the concentration found in "Garden Safe® Brand Houseplant & Garden Insect Killer". The most common side effect following dermal contact is skin irritation not present before use.

The application of "Houseplant & Garden Insect Killer" is designed to produce insecticidal residues on surfaces, but without significant aerosolization of the product. In the case of the insecticide application in the 5th floor office, the pyrethrins were dispensed directly onto plant leaf surfaces using a low velocity mechanical sprayer. This sprayer produces large water droplets that are not suspended in air (aerosolized) but fallout over a short distance from the spray nozzle orifice. The net result is control over the placement of pyrethrin residues onto the intended surface (the plant).

Following an IAQ incident involving an insecticide application there is concern that surface residues pose an unacceptable risk for exposure. For several reasons, including the short half-life of pyrethrins, the lack of an effective transport mechanism that would contaminate office areas beyond the boundaries of the area of application, and the small amount of insecticide present during the application, the potential for dermal exposure is very low.

Furthermore, developing a reliable estimate of pyrethrins dermal exposure is difficult because of the experimental design requirements necessary to produce a valid data set, the lack of health-based interpretive criteria, and the presence of confounding sources of pyrethrins in the building.

4.5. Water testing

Operating under a "belts and suspenders" approach, a plan was developed and executed to test the building's domestic water at one discharge tap in one galley on the 5th floor. This "range finding" experiment was designed to explore a hypothesis that oxidizing agents, or an abnormal pH, could have played a role in the hydrolysis of PBO and the production of odorant by-products. The water sample collection and testing is complete and all measured parameters were

within the expected range and there is no suggestion that a condition of the tap water resulted in rapid hydrolysis of PBO and production of odorants.

4.6. Analysis/Conclusions

The IAQ incident initially focused concern on the possible release of pyrethrins insecticide into the environment. However, the hallmark of the July 3rd IAQ incident is the presence of a pungent odor, an odor that is not consistent with the release of pyrethrin-based insecticides or use of the commercial product ("Garden Safe® Brand Houseplant & Garden Insect Killer"), both of which are generally considered odorless.

The synergist piperonyl butoxide may degrade to produce odorants. These by-products would be the most likely source for the odors reported during this IAQ incident and would be consistent with irritant-related health effects reported by many of the occupants on the 5th floor. Unfortunately is not possible to identify the exact odorants involved in this IAQ incident and not possible to confirm the hydrolysis reaction kinetics that would produce these odorants.

The potential for building occupants to be exposed to a toxicologically relevant concentration of pyrethrins during the IAQ incident is remote. The most conservative estimate of instantaneous peak pyrethrin air concentration produced during the IAQ incident is two orders of magnitude below the current OSHA PEL. Reasonably accounting for the low vapor pressure for pyrethrins and the rapid dilution and removal of pyrethrins from the indoor air over a short period by building mechanical systems, actual pyrethrins air concentrations were likely very low and below the detection limits of OSHA analytical methods.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1. Conclusions (as presented in the Preamble and Summary)

- 5.1.1. The IAQ incident is almost certainly directly linked to the use of a household insecticide and that the use of the insecticide did not involve a spill or use of the product outside its labeled instructions. The product itself had been in the building for over three years and was routinely used without incident. (While the simple fact that the IAQ incident involved this insecticide product may appear self-evident to most, significant effort was expended to establish that no other building-related event was the cause of this IAQ incident.)

- 5.1.2. The contents and concentration of the insecticide product are known and are consistent with the container label. The purchase, source, and custody of the insecticide product were established with confidence.
- 5.1.3. The potential for toxicologically relevant exposure of office occupants to the insecticide product (pyrethrins) is remote. This was deduced from calculation of worst-case air concentrations following theoretical instantaneous release of the product into the air of a confined single office environment. These calculated air concentrations were more than 2 orders of magnitude below the current OSHA permissible exposure limit (PEL), NIOSH REL and ACGIH TLV. It is highly unlikely that health effects reported by 5th floor occupants were related to pyrethrins.
- 5.1.4. It is postulated that the odorants released into the 5th floor office space were degradation by-products of the household insecticide product, a product that itself has very little odor. The insecticide product components, specifically, very low concentrations of pyrethrins (insecticide) and piperonyl butoxide (synergist) [pip•ron•neil butte•oxide] in aqueous solution, are known to degrade on exposure to UV light (sunlight). We also know the insecticide product was stored on or near a credenza located next to a large glass window spandrel with periods of direct exposure to sunlight for over three (3) years. Primary degradation products of piperonyl butoxide retain the piperonyl group and are medium to strong odorants (piperonyl is derived from the manufacturing precursor - sassafras oil). It is further postulated that these odorants accumulated within the insecticide product container forming a residue on the container's internal surfaces. These residues were then re-solubilized when water was added to the product container and it was vigorously shaken. The July 3rd application of approximately 15 mL of this degraded insecticide product is the likely source of odorants that were the hallmark of this IAQ incident.
- 5.1.5. Odorants that are degradation products of piperonyl butoxide are likely irritants. At low air concentrations, irritants can produce the spectrum of health effects reported by some of the 5th floor occupants. These health effects are mediated by both the olfactory receptors (sense of smell) as well as stimulation of trigeminal nerve receptors of the face (eyes, throat, nasal cavity). Occupants may continue to experience symptoms if exposure to the odor or irritant continues or if there is continued uncertainty about the quality of the indoor air.

5.1.6. All reasonable effort has been made to remove odorant and insecticide sources from the 5th floor that are related to this incident. Special odor adsorbent filters remain on the main air handler units. Building ventilation and other aspects of indoor air quality have been, and will be, optimized both for the 5th floor as a whole, and on a case-by-case individual basis, with the goal of achieving occupant satisfaction with their indoor environment. This process will take some time to be fully effective.

5.1.7. There is currently no toxicological-based rationale for avoidance of the 5th floor although continued experience of health effects by some occupants may preclude satisfactory re-introduction for these occupants.

5.2. Recommendations

5.2.1. Care of indoor plants

Building occupants frequently place indoor potted plants at or near their work area. Responsibility and protocols for the care of these personal plants may not be clearly established. At a minimum, informal expectations for the maintenance of a plant's condition, and criteria for removing a plant when it is either unhealthy or hosting insect populations, should be developed. When plants require insecticide treatment to maintain their health, the benefit of including such insecticide applications into the building's Integrated Pest Management Plan should be considered.

5.2.2. Responding to a sudden release of odorant in a office environment

The sudden, unexpected, release of an odorant is one hallmark of this IAQ incident. The building ventilation system design limits the effective use of building systems to rapidly remove odorants (or any other problematic indoor air contaminant) by direct building air exhaust. The building engineering staff should be consulted to determine how best to configure building exhaust systems to rapidly purge contaminated air from an occupied floor.

5.2.3. Ventilation air distribution and mixing, odor sources, and acceptable indoor air quality

During this IAQ incident review, several occupants of the 5th floor commented on previous nuisance odors in the office space. These odors included scented materials introduced to the indoor space by occupants

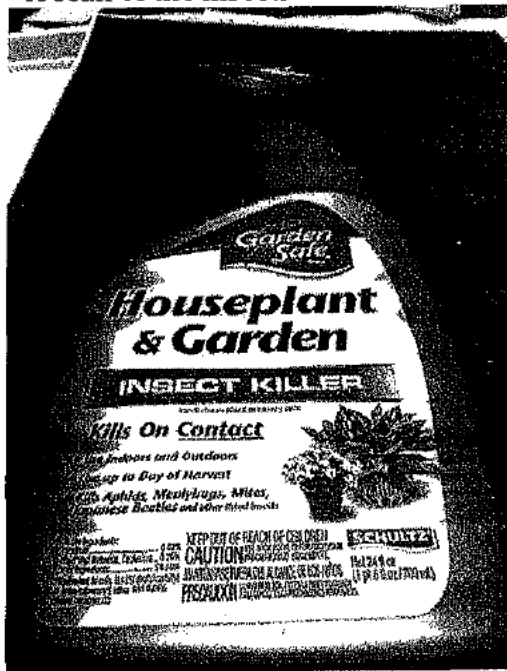
and construction related odors such as can occur following drywall installation and application of wall finishes. There is value in reviewing the odor control strategies for the floor, including discussion of limiting and removing odor sources, optimizing ventilation air mixing and distribution, with confirmation of the effectiveness of HVAC system design. The value of direct measurement of indoor air mixing, distribution and ventilation rate should be discussed with IAQ experts. Guidelines for performing ad hoc alterations to supply and return airflow patterns should be established.

Endnotes

i Photo of ponytail palm positioned near the office window.



ii A scan of the insecticide bottle showing the label and ingredients.



Fielden, Daniel

From: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2014 1:52 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 5th Floor Space Update as of Monday, September 15th

OK...

I need the new form so I can submit it. Thanks.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2014 1:50 PM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Subject: Re: 5th Floor Space Update as of Monday, September 15th

I did but I haven't been in my office to search my computer.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 23, 2014, at 1:02 PM, "Barbour-Swann, Shuan" <Barbour-Swann.Shuan@epa.gov> wrote:

Did you fill out a new one for September 5th? The one I have is date July 25th. Thanks.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2014 11:59 AM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Subject: Re: 5th Floor Space Update as of Monday, September 15th

I thought I sent it. I moved again but I thought I scanned it and sent it.

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 23, 2014, at 9:00 AM, "Barbour-Swann, Shuan" <Barbour-Swann.Shuan@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

How are you feeling? Have you had a chance to complete your 301 form? Thanks.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 8:31 AM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Subject: RE: 5th Floor Space Update as of Monday, September 15th

Thanks Shaun

From: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 8:28 AM

To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 5th Floor Space Update as of Monday, September 15th

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope you are feeling better. I have attached another [REDACTED] form. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

From: Watson, Cassie
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 9:09 AM
To: [REDACTED] Hemmer, Patricia; Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Subject: RE: 5th Floor Space Update as of Monday, September 15th

Good morning [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (b) (6) [REDACTED] I hope you are doing much better. Please work with Patricia Hemmer, OHR and Shaun Barbour-Swann of my staff for assistance with your 301. If I can be of further assistance please let me know.

R/Cassie

Sent from my Windows Phone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 9/17/2014 8:50 AM
To: Watson, Cassie
Subject: FW: 5th Floor Space Update as of Monday, September 15th [REDACTED]

Hi Cassie, I was asked to complete another 301 form. (b) (6) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Prince, Roy
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2014 8:02 AM
To: Coleman, Cheryl; Watson, Cassie; [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: 5th Floor Space Update as of Monday, September 15th

Good morning Cassie. Thanks for providing the additional parameters that were included in the testing. I'm assuming all of those tested normal as well? Tha [REDACTED]

From: Watson, Cassie
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 2:01 PM
To: Prince, Roy; Wilson, Howard
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 5th Floor Space Update as of Monday, September 15th

Roy,

Yes, other environmental parameters included volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, relative humidity and temperature.

R/ Cassie

From: Prince, Roy
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2014 12:04 PM
To: Wilson, Howard; Watson, Cassie
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: 5th Floor Space Update as of Monday, September 15th

Howard/Cassie: [REDACTED] has asked a question related to the update I sent out last night. [REDACTED]s asked if the indoor air samples included testing for anything beyond Pyrethrum and Piperonyl Butoxide? Thank you.

Roy

From: Prince, Roy
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2014 3:45 PM
To: OSWER ORCR EVERYONE
Subject: 5th Floor Space Update as of Monday, September 15th

Hello everyone- here is the latest update regarding the situation impacting our 5th floor space as of Monday, September 15th:

- The Safety, Health, and Environmental Management Division (SHEMD) has informed us they received the results of the indoor air samples taken on the 5th floor two weeks ago. All air and surface wipe samples revealed concentrations below detection limits for Pyrethrum and Piperonyl butoxide (<0.0041 mg³ for air samples and <0.50 ug/sample for wipe sample). There was no evidence of residual contamination from the recent application in the office area. They are awaiting a final report from the Federal Occupational Health office and that will be shared upon receipt.
- ORCR is currently working with SHEMD to determine the date for the next ORCR All-hands meeting for the purpose of informing us of any additional findings. That meeting is expected to occur sometime during the first two weeks of October.
- The Facilities Division continues the process of exploring options for further cubicle cleaning.

We will continue to let you know information as we receive it, along with sending out regular emails Monday and Wednesday afternoons until this situation has been fully resolved.

Thanks again for your continued patience and let me and/or your managers know if there is anything we can do to help.

Roy

Fielden, Daniel

From: Fitz-James, Schatzi
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 1:10 PM
To: Prince, Roy; Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Corbett, Krysti; Salyer, Kathleen; Behan, Frank; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Coleman, Cheryl; Mooney, Charlotte
Subject: RE: We have a new problem

I've spoken to Charlotte and forwarded to Frank, Betsy, Ross and Charlotte previously. I also suggested potentially keeping management representation at the first line supervisor level at this particular meeting in case issues are elevated.

From: Prince, Roy
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 1:07 PM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Corbett, Krysti; Salyer, Kathleen; Behan, Frank; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Coleman, Cheryl; Mooney, Charlotte
Subject: RE: We have a new problem

Shuan: I will help in any way needed for anyone associated with this. (b) (6)

I've included Krysti Corbett on the email here as she is OSWER's new Labor and Employee Relations representative and has been working on this situation of late, as well as Kathleen Salyer, our new ORCR Deputy Director; Frank Behan who is [REDACTED] direct report Supervisor; Betsy Devlin and Ross Elliott who are [REDACTED] Division Director and Deputy Division Director respectively, and Cheryl Coleman and Charlotte Mooney who are [REDACTED] Division Director and Deputy Division Director respectively.

From: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 12:27 PM
To: Fitz-James, Schatzi; Prince, Roy
Subject: FW: We have a new problem

Hello Schatzi/Roy,

How are you both doing? Are you two available next Tuesday at 2:45 to meet with everyone involved? I am planning to see if [REDACTED] is available then. Please let me know. Thanks.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 2:30 PM
To: Wilson, Howard; Hemmer, Patricia; Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Cc: Wiley, Ronald [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: We have a new problem

Howard, Patricia, and Shuan,

I would like to schedule a meeting in reference to the recent incident I had and the ongoing impacts to myself and others as a result of the July, 2014 chemical release. There are three of us, and perhaps others as well, who want to make sure that our records as well as your records are reflective of our impacts associated with the incident and are consistent with record and reporting requirements under the Federal OSHA.

I would also like to request that my union representative, Mr. Ronald Wiley also be allowed to attend this meeting. Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460
[REDACTED]

From: Corbett, Krysti
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 1:56 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Wiley, Ronald; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Prince, Roy; Hemmer, Patricia; Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Wilson, Howard
Subject: RE: We have a new problem

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Please reach out to Patricia Hemmer and Howard Wilson or Shuan Barbour-Swann -- they are the Agency representatives for these two processes and can help advise you. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Krysti Corbett
Labor and Employee Relations Specialist
Phone: 202-564-6295
corbett.krysti@epa.gov

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 1:51 PM
To: Corbett, Krysti
Cc: Wiley, Ronald; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Prince, Roy; Hemmer, Patricia; Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Wilson, Howard
Subject: Re: We have a new problem [REDACTED]

Krysti,

[REDACTED]
These previous emails sending us to other sites were not informative, or helpful and actually bring up more questions. As a result, I would prefer to sit down with whomever I should so that I can go over all the issues at one time. Since so much more has happened since the incident occurred, I want to make sure that all the impacts caused by the incident are adequately reflected on my time cards, leave slips, and the appropriate OSHA forms that account for time taken lost or taken off as a result of the incident (e.g., doctors visits, sick leave, etc.), as well as other costs associated with the incident.

I discussed this with the OSHA today after the incident that occurred this morning and she indicated that this should be done for the entire period from the date of the incident. I also believe others who were impacted may need this same type of assistance. Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460
[REDACTED]

From: Corbett, Krysti
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 1:09 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Wiley, Ronald; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Prince, Roy; Hemmer, Patricia; Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Wilson, Howard
Subject: FW: We have a new problem

[REDACTED]

I'm Krysti, a Labor and Employee Relations Specialist in OARM (I support OSWER). Schatzi forwarded me your emails from earlier today to help guide her through the appropriate next steps.

To answer some of your questions:

Patricia Hemmer is the Agency's worker's compensation program coordinator – see the email below regarding next steps if you elect to file a worker's comp claim.

The Health and Safety office can respond to the issues you've brought forward related to your OSHA concerns. Howard Wilson and Shuan Barbour-Swann are copied on this email – you can also reach out to them directly for appropriate next steps. My understanding is that you've worked with them before and that they are aware of some of the issues you've raised.

Please let me know if there's anything else you need.

Krysti Corbett
Labor and Employee Relations Specialist
Phone: 202-564-6295
corbett.krysti@epa.gov

From: Hemmer, Patricia
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 11:44 AM
To: Corbett, Krysti

[REDACTED]

Cc: Fitz-James, Schatzi; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Prince, Roy

Subject: RE: We have a new problem

I would assist with a workers' comp claim. It's 100% up to the employee if they wish to file a workers' comp claim. If they do, then they should complete Form CA-1 for an injury that occurred within 1 workday or Form CA-2 for an injury that occurred over a period of more than 1 workday. They file their workers' comp claim via this site: <https://ecomp.doh.gov>

In EPA's Office of Safety and Health, the contact there is Shuan Barbour-Swann. She can be reached at 202-564-1650.

Let me know if you have further questions.

From: Corbett, Krysti

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 11:28 AM

To: Hemmer, Patricia

Cc: Fitz-James, Schatzi; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Prince, Roy

Subject: FW: We have a new problem

Pat,

The emails below are in reference to the PY contamination issue over the summer – this employee is claiming ongoing medical issues resulting from the contamination.

(b) says that HR should have an OSHA representative (per OSHA), and that (b) would like to speak with that individual (do we have someone like that here? Is that you?) I think that we should encourage (b) to file a worker's comp claim (or at the very least fill out an incident report).

Should management fill out an incident report (CA-1, right?) over the printer issue this morning?

Can you help direct us here on the best way to move forward?

Let me know if you want to chat about this.

Krysti Corbett

Labor and Employee Relations Specialist

Phone: 202-564-6295

corbett.krysti@epa.gov

From: Fitz-James, Schatzi

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 11:20 AM

To: Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Corbett, Krysti; Prince, Roy

Subject: Fwd: We have a new problem

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: April 22, 2015 at 10:52:21 AM EDT

To: "Fitz-James, Schatzi" <Fitz-James.Schatzi@epa.gov>

Subject: Fw: We have a new problem

SFJ,

I contacted the Federal OSHA representative this morning after I could get my breathing under control about the incident that occurred this morning. She indicated that I should be working directly with our HR representative about the ongoing impacts I am having from the July, 2014 chemical release, and that my first line manager should be able to provide me that information. In the past, we were asked to work through Roy, who had no health and safety experience and just led us to links for information. That is no longer adequate and was pointed out to the agency during the recent OSHA notice of violations. She also indicated that these incidents should be reported by HR to senior management about lost time and impacts associated with the incident on the appropriate OSHA forms (again, as the recent Notice of Violations indicate).

I don't believe any of that has happened because we were not aware what forms and who we need to contact. Providing an email with links to forms as was done in the past is not adequate. I would like to request a meeting with whomever the appropriate HR person is so that I can make sure all the impacts I have had from the incident have been captured, reported and recorded as appropriate. I also believe this needs to be conveyed to all of the individuals that were impacted by the incident. I would appreciate if you could provide that information as soon as possible. Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

[REDACTED]
Visit us at: www.epa.gov/waste/homeland

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 8:21 AM

To: Fitz-James, Schatzi

Subject: We have a new problem

SFJ,

I was just printing out the WM Chapter that we finalized on my printer that is set up in my cubicle. It lets out an odor when it does bigger printing jobs. My throat started to burn (b) (6)

[REDACTED] (b) (6)
[REDACTED] II. My doctor and those of others that have been impacted by the chemical release last July have new and heightened sensitivities to chemicals which still impact me. To date, those have not gone away as the report done by the agency suggests. The

reactions have come when I am exposed to other chemicals as well. I have never had reactions like these before the incident of last year, and have continued to have them both at work (as I was moved around, when the boxes were moved into my cubicle, as well as the printer today).

I am going to go home to work because I can't do it here until I have access to a printer outside of my cubicle. This situation has become very frustrating and has moved way beyond being an irritant, it has impacted my life. As usual, you can reach me on my cell.....

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

[REDACTED]
visit us at: www.epa.gov/waste/homeland

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Fielden, Daniel

Subject: PY Meeting
Location: DCRoomRRBM306Bp10/DC-OARM-OA-FMSD
Start: Thu 4/30/2015 1:00 PM
End: Thu 4/30/2015 3:00 PM
Recurrence: (none)
Meeting Status: Meeting organizer
Organizer: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Required Attendees: Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Wilson, Howard; Elliott, Ross; Corbett, Krysti; Hemmer, Patricia; [REDACTED] Fitz-James, Schatzi; Wiley, Ronald; Fielden, Daniel
Optional Attendees: Behan, Frank; Coleman, Cheryl; Mooney, Charlotte
Resources: DCRoomRRBM306Bp10/DC-OARM-OA-FMSD

Ronald Reagan Building – Mezzanine Level 306B @1:00pm.

Fielden, Daniel

From: Fitz-James, Schatzi
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 12:29 PM
To: Mooney, Charlotte; Coleman, Cheryl; Behan, Frank; Elliott, Ross
Cc: Devlin, Betsy; Prince, Roy; Salyer, Kathleen; Corbett, Krysti; Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Subject: FW: Thursday forms meeting [REDACTED]

I do not know if Mr. Wiley is speaking on behalf of three ORCR staff on this email, however, it is reasonable to assume he is. If that is indeed the case, are Krysti, Cheryl/Charlotte and Frank available to attend the 1:00 meeting if deemed appropriate to do so? Ross and I are. Thank you.

From: Wiley, Ronald
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 12:10 PM
To: Hemmer, Patricia; Barbour-Swann, Shuan [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Corbett, Krysti; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Wilson, Howard
Subject: RE: We have a new problem

All: [REDACTED]

We are good with this meeting. Please make it happen. We will forward an agenda to you all by close of business, Wednesday April 29, 2015.

Thank you so much for your cooperation calendaring this meeting.

Sincerely,

Ronald R. Wiley
AFGE Local 3331
202 566 2497 [REDACTED]

From: Hemmer, Patricia
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 11:21 AM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Wiley, Ronald; Corbett, Krysti; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Wilson, Howard
Subject: RE: We have a new problem [REDACTED]

I'm available. [REDACTED]

From: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 11:20 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Wiley, Ronald; Hemmer, Patricia; Corbett, Krysti; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Wilson, Howard
Subject: RE: We have a new problem

Hello [REDACTED]

Everyones calendar here is booked tomorrow and Thursday, with back to back meetings. We have one time slot open at 1:00 on Thursday, but that would mean you all would have to come over here for the meeting, if everyone is available. Please let me know.

Thanks.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 11:02 AM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Cc: [REDACTED] Wiley, Ronald; Hemmer, Patricia; Corbett, Krysti; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Wilson, Howard
Subject: Re: We have a new problem

Shuan,

That is not going to help because I am going to be out to a conference all next week. The sooner we have this the better because it is continuing to impact several of us.

[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

[REDACTED]
Visit us at: www.epa.gov/waste/homeland

From: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 10:59 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Wiley, Ronald; Hemmer, Patricia; Corbett, Krysti; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Wilson, Howard
Subject: RE: We have a new problem

Hello [REDACTED]

Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, but we will have to try and schedule this meeting for some time next week. What does everyones calendar look like for next Thursday, at 10:00 or 11:00?

Thanks

Shuan

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2015 8:47 PM
To: Wiley, Ronald; Wilson, Howard; Hemmer, Patricia; Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: We have a new problem

Ronald,

[REDACTED] and myself could do this on Wednesday late in the morning (after 10:00am) thru the early afternoon if that is possible for the others. Please let us know so we can adjust our calendars. I realize it is hard to schedule everyone, however we really need to do this on Wednesday. Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
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U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460
[REDACTED]

Visit us at: www.epa.gov/waste/homeland

From: Wiley, Ronald
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2015 11:54 AM
To: [REDACTED] Wilson, Howard; Hemmer, Patricia; Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: We have a new problem

I would very much like to attend this meeting; however, Tuesday does not work with me. Would it be possible for everyone to adjust their respective schedules to meet on Wednesday, April 29, 2015?

I certainly would appreciate that consideration in connection with such an important matter regarding the continued health and safety of our bargaining unit employees.

You may contact me either through this email medium or at the telephone number provided below. Or you can certainly calendar an invite.

Have a great and blessed day as I look forward to a most productive meeting.

Sincerely,

Ronald R. Wiley
AFGE Local 3331
202 566 2497

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 2:30 PM
To: Wilson, Howard; Hemmer, Patricia; Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Cc: Wiley, Ronald; [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: We have a new problem

Howard, Patricia, and Shuan,

I would like to schedule a meeting in reference to the recent incident I had and the ongoing impacts to myself and others as a result of the July, 2014 chemical release. There are three of us, and perhaps others as well, who want to make sure that our records as well as your records are reflective of our impacts associated with the incident and are consistent with record and reporting requirements under the Federal OSHA.

I would also like to request that my union representative, Mr. Ronald Wiley also be allowed to attend this meeting. Thanks,

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Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

From: Corbett, Krysti

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 1:56 PM

To:

Cc: Wiley, Ronald; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Prince, Roy; Hemmer, Patricia; Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Wilson, Howard

Subject: RE: We have a new problem

Please reach out to Patricia Hemmer and Howard Wilson or Shuan Barbour-Swann – they are the Agency representatives for these two processes and can help advise you.

Krysti Corbett

Labor and Employee Relations Specialist

Phone: 202-564-6295

corbett.krysti@epa.gov

From:

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 1:51 PM

To: Corbett, Krysti

Cc: Wiley, Ronald; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Prince, Roy; Hemmer, Patricia; Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Wilson, Howard

Subject: Re: We have a new problem

Krysti,

These previous emails sending us to other sites were not informative, or helpful and actually bring up more questions. As a result, I would prefer to sit down with whomever I should so that I can go over all the issues at one time. Since so much more has happened since the incident occurred, I want to make sure that all the impacts caused by the incident are adequately reflected on my time cards, leave slips, and the appropriate OSHA forms that account for time taken lost or taken off as a result of the incident (e.g., doctors visits, sick leave, etc.), as well as other costs associated with the incident.

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Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460
[REDACTED]

From: Corbett, Krysti
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 1:09 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Wiley, Ronald; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Prince, Roy; Hemmer, Patricia; Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Wilson, Howard
Subject: FW: We have a new problem

[REDACTED]

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The Health and Safety office can respond to the issues you've brought forward related to your OSHA concerns. Howard Wilson and Shuan Barbour-Swann are copied on this email – you can also reach out to them directly for appropriate next steps. My understanding is that you've worked with them before and that they are aware of some of the issues you've raised.

Please let me know if there's anything else you need.

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Labor and Employee Relations Specialist
Phone: 202-564-6295
corbett.krysti@epa.gov

From: Hemmer, Patricia
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To: Corbett, Krysti
Cc: Fitz-James, Schatzi; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Prince, Roy
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Let me know if you have further questions.

From: Corbett, Krysti
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 11:28 AM
To: Hemmer, Patricia
Cc: Fitz-James, Schatzi; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Prince, Roy
Subject: FW: We have a new problem

Pat,

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Krysti Corbett

Labor and Employee Relations Specialist
Phone: 202-564-6295
corbett.krysti@epa.gov

From: Fitz-James, Schatzi
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To: Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Corbett, Krysti; Prince, Roy
Subject: Fwd: We have a new problem

Sent from my iPhone

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Subject: Fw: We have a new problem

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From: [REDACTED]
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To: Fitz-James, Schatzi
Subject: We have a new problem

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I was just printing out the WM Chapter that we finalized on my printer that is set up in my cubicle. It lets out an odor when it does bigger printing jobs. My throat started to burn (b) (6)

[REDACTED] My doctor and those of others that have been impacted by the chemical release last July have new and heightened sensitivities to chemicals which still impact me. To date, those have not gone away as the report done by the agency suggests. The reactions have come when I am exposed to other chemicals as well. I have never had reactions like these before the incident of last year, and have continued to have them both at work (as I was moved around, when the boxes were moved into my cubicle, as well as the printer today).

I am going to go home to work because I can't do it here until I have access to a printer outside of my cubicle. This situation has become very frustrating and has moved way beyond being an irritant, it has impacted my life. As usual, you can reach me on my cell.....

[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

[REDACTED]
Visit us at: www.epa.gov/waste/homeland

Fielden, Daniel

From: Behan, Frank
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 7:35 AM
To: Fitz-James, Schatzi; Corbett, Krysti; Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Mooney, Charlotte; Coleman, Cheryl
Cc: Prince, Roy; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross
Subject: RE: Latest Information on Status of ORCR Workplace Issues Meeting with SHEMD scheduled for 4/30/15

FYI - I would not be able to make the Thurs meeting anyway as I have a [REDACTED] tomorrow.

Sent from my Windows Phone

From: Fitz-James, Schatzi
Sent: 4/29/2015 7:23 AM
To: Corbett, Krysti; Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Behan, Frank; Mooney, Charlotte; Coleman, Cheryl
Cc: Prince, Roy; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross
Subject: Latest Information on Status of ORCR Workplace Issues Meeting with SHEMD scheduled for 4/30/15

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 7:20 AM
To: Fitz-James, Schatzi
Subject: Thursday Meeting

SFJ,

We [REDACTED] along with Ronald Wiley have decided that the meeting with SHEMD on Thursday will not include our management. I was fine with you, however the others did not want their managers to be present at this time. They have some serious issues there that I won't get into. I just wanted you to know for planning purposes. Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Fielden, Daniel

From: Corbett, Krysti
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 12:48 PM
To: Wilson, Howard;Barbour-Swann, Shuan;Hemmer, Patricia
Cc: Prince, Roy;Coleman, Cheryl;Fitz-James, Schatzi;Behan, Frank;Patel, Aster;Mooney, Charlotte;Devlin, Betsy;Elliott, Ross
Subject: RE: MEETING AGENDA_Chemical Release_04_30_15_Final Draft.docx

Great – see you in a couple of minutes! THANK YOU!

Krysti Corbett

Labor and Employee Relations Specialist
Phone: 202-564-6295
corbett.krysti@epa.gov

From: Wilson, Howard
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 12:46 PM
To: Corbett, Krysti; Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Hemmer, Patricia
Cc: Prince, Roy; Coleman, Cheryl; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Behan, Frank; Patel, Aster; Mooney, Charlotte; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross
Subject: RE: MEETING AGENDA_Chemical Release_04_30_15_Final Draft.docx

Krysti: I'm fine without managers – I think the info being requested should be managed at the lowest level possible – Shuan and Patricia should be able to respond to all questions anticipated. I wanted the managers to be aware of the meeting.

Howard
Howard O. Wilson, Deputy Director
Safety, Health and Environmental Management Division
Office of Administration, OARM
202-564-1646
<http://intranet.epa.gov/oaintran/shemd/national/>

From: Corbett, Krysti
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2015 11:54 AM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Wilson, Howard; Hemmer, Patricia
Cc: Prince, Roy; Coleman, Cheryl; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Behan, Frank; Patel, Aster; Mooney, Charlotte; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross
Subject: FW: MEETING AGENDA_Chemical Release_04_30_15_Final Draft.docx

Shuan and Howard,

I'm sorry I haven't engaged on this sooner – I've been in meetings all morning.

There is some confusion about the meeting this afternoon.

Schatzi informed me that you guys didn't want to have this meeting without the employees' managers. But it appears that Ron and the employees have pushed back on this issue – to the point where Ron sent this agenda last night that specifically excluded the managers.

What are your thoughts on this? I don't think that the managers have to be there – but if you guys are more comfortable with the managers' attendance, we understand that too.

Either way – I don't think it's appropriate for the employees or union to unilaterally determine the attendees of this meeting. (But that's a separate topic.)

Krysti Corbett

Labor and Employee Relations Specialist

Phone: 202-564-6295

corbett.krysti@epa.gov

From: Wiley, Ronald

Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 4:49 PM

To: Wilson, Howard; Corbett, Krysti; Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Hemmer, Patricia

Cc: [REDACTED] Wiley, Ronald

Subject: MEETING AGENDA_Chemical Release_04_30_15_Final Draft.docx

Accompanying this transmittal note is a copy of the proposed agenda in advance of the Thursday, April 30, 2015 meeting with the above captioned individuals.

Please let me know if you have any questions or modifications.

You may contact me either through this email medium or at the telephone number provided below.

Sincerely,

Ronald R. Wiley
AFGE Local 3331
202 566 2497

PROPOSED MEETING AGENDA

EMPLOYEE CONCERNS & ONGOING IMPACTS FROM THE CHEMICAL RELEASE IN PYN ON JULY 3rd, 2014

Date: April 30th, 2015

Location: Ronald Reagan Bldg, Rm 306B

Call-In Number: (866) 299-3188; code 2025644587#

Attendee's: Howard Wilson (SHEMD); Shuan Barbour-Swann (SHEMD)
Patricia Hemmer (OHR-Workman's Compensation)
Krysti Corbett (Labor & Employee Relations Specialist)
Ronald R. Wiley (AFGE Local 3331)
[REDACTED]

Purpose: Discuss ongoing Health & Safety (H&S) impacts and additional issues from the chemical release on July 3rd, 2014 and how to annotate and be compensated for those impacts thru the appropriate EPA and OSHA forms. We would like to increase your awareness that H&S issues remain/continue following the incident; not just for the three of us, but for others.

AGENDA

- 1. How to annotate ongoing H&S impacts on EPA & OSHA forms?**
 - a. Time off during the incident
 - b. Sick & medical leave taken and to be taken related to ongoing H&S impacts
 - c. Correcting past time cards & correctly filing new timecards related to this incident
 - d. H&S reporting forms, posting of those forms, handling within & outside the agency
- 2. How to file for and be compensated for time off & costs related to existing & ongoing H & S impacts?**
 - a. Compensation for or leave restoration for time off taken as a result of the incident to date
 - b. Compensation for time off taken in the future as a result of ongoing H&S impacts
 - c. Compensation for medical costs (Doctors, Procedures, Medications, Counseling, etc.)
- 3. Additional Issues**
 - a. Workplace needs
 - b. Communication
 - c. Performance & career concerns
- 4. Next Steps & Follow-up**

Fielden, Daniel

From: Dance, Angela - OSHA <dance.angela@dol.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 3:53 PM
To: Watson, Cassie
Subject: RE: 300 Log

Thank you.

Angela C. Dance
Industrial Hygienist
USDOL/OSHA
Baltimore Washington Area Office
1099 Winterson RD, Suite 140
Linthicum, MD 21090-2218
Telephone: (410)865-2055 Fax: (410)865-2068

From: Watson, Cassie [mailto:Watson.Cassie@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 12:36 PM
To: Dance, Angela - OSHA; Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Subject: RE: 300 Log

Hello Angela,

Sorry for the delay. First day back in the office and Shaun was out sick.

The following individuals are/where recordable injuries:

[REDACTED] 3/7/14

[REDACTED] 7/3/14

The other individuals are/where not. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance to you.

R/Cassie

Sent from my Windows Phone

From: Dance, Angela - OSHA
Sent: 11/17/2014 11:13 AM
To: Watson, Cassie
Subject: 300 Log

Hi Cassie,

Are the individuals listed below recordable injuries?

[REDACTED] 1/9/14, [REDACTED] 1/15/14, [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] on 3/7/14 or 1/10/14),
[REDACTED] 4/24/14, [REDACTED] 6/24/14, [REDACTED] 5/11/14, [REDACTED] 7/3/14, and
[REDACTED] 1/9/14.

Angela

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Fielden, Daniel

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2014 12:07 PM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Subject: RE: Injury and Illness Form

Hi Shuan,

I have not missed any days of work. I did, however, leave early today and am completing the remainder of my hours today, remotely. I have been offered another cubicle on the sixth floor when I come in to work tomorrow. I am however, somewhat concerned that if there is something in the ventilation system, then working on a different floor, may not make a difference.

[REDACTED]

From: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2014 11:58 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Injury and Illness Form

Hello [REDACTED]

I received your 301 Form but you did not fill out #14. Days away from work. Please indicate if you had any missed days, even if you had zero (0). Thank you.

Shuan Maria Barbour Swann
Safety and Occupational Health Specialist
Safety, Health and Environmental Management Division
U.S.EPA
202-564-1650 (WORK)
202-564-0215 (FAX)

Fielden, Daniel

From: Wilson, Howard
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2014 8:53 PM
To: Prince, Roy
Cc: Watson, Cassie; Dr. R Hugh Granger Ph.D.
Subject: Fw: Environmental Study

(b) (5) D.P.
[REDACTED]

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

Original Message

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2014 9:19 AM
To: Prince, Roy
Cc: Englander, Jana; Hoffman, Stephen; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Wilson, Howard; Watson, Cassie; Huff, Mark J; Johnson, Barnes
Subject: RE: Environmental Study

Roy,

Not sure if anyone has contacted an EPA OSC from Region 3, (b) (6), (b) (5)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I always thought EPA's mission was to protect public health and safety. Lets apply it here and not take forever to do it.

(b) (6)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Visit us at: www.epa.gov/waste/homeland

From: Prince, Roy
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2014 8:48 AM
To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Englander, Jana; Hoffman, Stephen; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Wilson, Howard; Watson, Cassie; Huff, Mark J; Johnson, Barnes

Subject: Re: Environmental Study

██████ - I am out of the office today. Yes - Cheryl made us aware yesterday that ██████ and some others had a reaction from going into that conference room. I did check with facilities to see if the conference room had been cleaned in the same manner as the cubicle space and was told it had been. I also alerted SHEMD of the fact that it had occurred. I've also cced them on this email to alert them to your concern.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Aug 19, 2014, at 7:49 AM, "████████████████████" wrote:

>

> Roy,

> Are you aware that people are still have affects from plants in the

> RCSD ██████ and ██████ were in the conference room on Friday and were

> still being affected. There is nothing that shows me that you have a

> handle on this even though it is 2 months after the incident. Still

> waiting for the important decision to be made. Not sure why it is

> taking so long. Mario _____

> From: Prince, Roy

> Sent: Monday, August 18, 2014 3:57 PM

> To: ████████████████████

> Subject: RE: Environmental Study

>

> Also ██████: additionally - I mentioned in the email I sent out to everyone last Wednesday that an All-hands meeting is in the planning stages for September 3rd or 4th, and I've been told it will include Dr. Holland and the toxicologist from the firm hired by SHEMD to look into the issue, and also hopefully the chemist that's being consulted in EPA's Analytical Chemistry Lab in Ft. Meade. We would obviously be expecting a report from them at that meeting outlining all of their efforts and findings up to that time. However, in the meantime, any parts of that information that I become aware of leading up to that meeting will be shared with everyone in the office.

>

> Roy

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Prince, Roy

> Sent: Monday, August 18, 2014 3:10 PM

> To: ████████████████████

> Subject: RE: Environmental Study

>

██████████: thanks for emailing me with your questions. Earlier today i forwarded ██████ email to the Health and Safety office to obtain the answers. They've not got back to me yet. As soon as I know the answers I will get back to you. Thanks.

>

> Roy

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: ████████████████████

> Sent: Monday, August 18, 2014 11:02 AM

> To: Englander, Jana; Prince, Roy

> Subject: RE: Environmental Study

>

> Roy, I am also awaiting the same answer. It has been two months since the incident and those of us who have been impacted are waiting to here about the one thing that needs to happen to be able to ensure that it is safe to come back to work [REDACTED]

>

> From: Englander, Jana

> Sent: Monday, August 18, 2014 8:35 AM

> To: Prince, Roy

> Subject: Environmental Study

>

> Hello Roy,

>

>

> Last week when I spoke to Dr. Holland, he mentioned that EPA was about to start on an environmental study last week on the fifth floor. There wasn't anything with regards to that in your updates from last week. Could you please verify whether or not there is an active environmental study, what it entails and when results will be known?

>

>

> Thanks,

>

>

> Jana

>

> Jana Englander

> Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery, Materials Recovery Waste

> Management Division Energy Recovery and Waste Disposal Branch U.S.

> Environmental Protection Agency 703-308-8711

>

>

Fielden, Daniel

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 3:06 PM
To: [REDACTED]; Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Cc: Wiley, Ronald
Subject: Time is Ok for meRE: We have a new problem

Good Afternoon,

I will schedule my time to ensure I make the meeting. Thank you.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 2:01 PM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Wilson, Howard; Hemmer, Patricia
Cc: Wiley, Ronald; [REDACTED]; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Corbett, Krysti; Wiley, Ronald
Subject: Re: We have a new problem

Shuan,

While that works for me, I think that is probably to late in the day for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] however I will let them speak for themselves. Where are you suggesting we have this meeting as that may also be a factor for some? Thanks for getting back to us.

[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460
[REDACTED]

From: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 1:48 PM
To: [REDACTED]; Wilson, Howard; Hemmer, Patricia
Cc: Wiley, Ronald; [REDACTED]; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Corbett, Krysti; Wiley, Ronald
Subject: RE: We have a new problem

Hello [REDACTED]

Does Tuesday at 3:45 work for everyone?

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 2:30 PM
To: Wilson, Howard; Hemmer, Patricia; Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Cc: Wiley, Ronald; [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: We have a new problem [REDACTED]

Howard, Patricia, and Shuan,

I would like to schedule a meeting in reference to the recent incident I had and the ongoing impacts to myself and others as a result of the July, 2014 chemical release. There are three of us, and perhaps others as well, who want to make sure that our records as well as your records are reflective of our impacts associated with the incident and are consistent with record and reporting requirements under the Federal OSHA.

I would also like to request that my union representative, Mr. Ronald Wiley also be allowed to attend this meeting. Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460
[REDACTED]

From: Corbett, Krysti
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 1:56 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Wiley, Ronald; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Prince, Roy; Hemmer, Patricia; Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Wilson, Howard
Subject: RE: We have a new problem [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Please reach out to Patricia Hemmer and Howard Wilson or Shuan Barbour-Swann – they are the Agency's representatives for these two processes and can help advise you. [REDACTED]

Krysti Corbett
Labor and Employee Relations Specialist
Phone: 202-564-6295
corbett.krysti@epa.gov

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 1:51 PM
To: Corbett, Krysti
Cc: Wiley, Ronald; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Prince, Roy; Hemmer, Patricia; Barbour-Swann, Shuan; [REDACTED]

Wilson, Howard

Subject: Re: We have a new problem

Krysti,

These previous emails sending us to other sites were not informative, or helpful and actually bring up more questions. As a result, I would prefer to sit down with whomever I should so that I can go over all the issues at one time. Since so much more has happened since the incident occurred, I want to make sure that all the impacts caused by the incident are adequately reflected on my time cards, leave slips, and the appropriate OSHA forms that account for time taken lost or taken off as a result of the incident (e.g., doctors visits, sick leave, etc.), as well as other costs associated with the incident.

I discussed this with the OSHA today after the incident that occurred this morning and she indicated that this should be done for the entire period from the date of the incident. I also believe others who were impacted may need this same type of assistance. Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460
[REDACTED]

From: Corbett, Krysti

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 1:09 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Wiley, Ronald; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Prince, Roy; Hemmer, Patricia; Barbour-Swann, Shuan; Wilson, Howard

Subject: FW: We have a new problem

[REDACTED]

I'm Krysti, a Labor and Employee Relations Specialist in OARM (I support OSWER). Schatzi forwarded me your emails from earlier today to help guide her through the appropriate next steps.

To answer some of your questions:

Patricia Hemmer is the Agency's worker's compensation program coordinator – see the email below regarding next steps if you elect to file a worker's comp claim.

The Health and Safety office can respond to the issues you've brought forward related to your OSHA concerns. Howard Wilson and Shuan Barbour-Swann are copied on this email – you can also reach out to them directly for appropriate next steps. My understanding is that you've worked with them before and that they are aware of some of the issues you've raised.

Please let me know if there's anything else you need.

Krysti Corbett

Labor and Employee Relations Specialist

Phone: 202-564-6295

corbett.krysti@epa.gov

From: Hemmer, Patricia

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 11:44 AM

To: Corbett, Krysti

Cc: Fitz-James, Schatzi; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Prince, Roy

Subject: RE: We have a new problem

I would assist with a workers' comp claim. It's 100% up to the employee if they wish to file a workers' comp claim. If they do, then they should complete Form CA-1 for an injury that occurred within 1 workday or Form CA-2 for an injury that occurred over a period of more than 1 workday. They file their workers' comp claim via this site: <http://www.epa.gov/ehp/claims>

In EPA's Office of Safety and Health, the contact there is Shuan Barbour-Swann. She can be reached at 202-564-1650.

Let me know if you have further questions.

From: Corbett, Krysti

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 11:28 AM

To: Hemmer, Patricia

Cc: Fitz-James, Schatzi; Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Prince, Roy

Subject: FW: We have a new problem

Pat,

The emails below are in reference to the PY contamination issue over the summer – this employee is claiming ongoing medical issues resulting from the contamination.

■ says that HR should have an OSHA representative (per OSHA), and that ■ would like to speak with that individual (do we have someone like that here? Is that you?) I think that we should encourage ■ to file a worker's comp claim (or at the very least fill out an incident report).

Should management fill out an incident report (CA-1, right?) over the printer issue this morning?

Can you help direct us here on the best way to move forward?

Let me know if you want to chat about this.

Krysti Corbett

Labor and Employee Relations Specialist

Phone: 202-564-6295

corbett.krysti@epa.gov

From: Fitz-James, Schatzi
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 11:20 AM
To: Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Corbett, Krysti; Prince, Roy
Subject: Fwd: We have a new problem

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: April 22, 2015 at 10:52:21 AM EDT
To: "Fitz-James, Schatzi" <Fitz-James.Schatzi@epa.gov>
Subject: Fw: We have a new problem

SFJ,

I contacted the Federal OSHA representative this morning after I could get my breathing under control about the incident that occurred this morning. She indicated that I should be working directly with our HR representative about the ongoing impacts I am having from the July, 2014 chemical release, and that my first line manager should be able to provide me that information. In the past, we were asked to work through Roy, who had no health and safety experience and just led us to links for information. That is no longer adequate and was pointed out to the agency during the recent OSHA notice of violations. She also indicated that these incidents should be reported by HR to senior management about lost time and impacts associated with the incident on the appropriate OSHA forms (again, as the recent Notice of Violations indicate).

I don't believe any of that has happened because we were not aware of what forms and who we need to contact. Providing an email with links to forms as was done in the past is not adequate. I would like to request a meeting with whomever the appropriate HR person is so that I can make sure all the impacts I have had from the incident have been captured, reported and recorded as appropriate. I also believe this needs to be conveyed to all of the individuals that were impacted by the incident. I would appreciate if you could provide that information as soon as possible. Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

[REDACTED]
Visit us at: www.epa.gov/waste/homeland

From [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 8:21 AM
To: Fitz-James, Schatzi
Subject: We have a new problem

SFJ,

I was just printing out the WM Chapter that we finalized on my printer that is set up in my cubicle. It lets out an odor when it does bigger printing jobs. My throat started to burn [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] My doctor and those of others that have been impacted by the chemical release last July have new and heightened sensitivities to chemicals which still impact me. To date, those have not gone away as the report done by the agency suggests. The reactions have come when I am exposed to other chemicals as well. I have never had reactions like these before the incident of last year, and have continued to have them both at work (as I was moved around, when the boxes were moved into my cubicle, as well as the printer today).

I am going to go home to work because I can't do it here until I have access to a printer outside of my cubicle. This situation has become very frustrating and has moved way beyond being an irritant, it has impacted my life. As usual, you can reach me on my cell.....

[REDACTED]
Waste Characterization Branch
Materials Recovery & Waste Management Division
Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery
U.S Environmental Protection Agency (MC-5304P)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

[REDACTED]
Visit us at: www.epa.gov/waste/homeland

Fielden, Daniel

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 11:41 AM
To: Fielden, Daniel
Cc: Barbour-Swann, Shuan [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Call In for Tomorrow

Thank you Daniel.

[REDACTED]

From: Fielden, Daniel
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 11:35 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Subject: Call In for Tomorrow

Hello [REDACTED]

Shuan requested that I provide you with call in information for tomorrow's meeting. You can call in at (866) 299-3 [REDACTED] with the code [REDACTED].

Thank you.

Daniel Fielden, CSP
Contractor - Industrial Hygienist
Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG)
Safety, Health and Environmental Management Division
USEPA/OARM/OA/SHEMD
(202) 564-5346
<http://intranet.epa.gov/oaintran/shemd/hqshemd/>

Fielden, Daniel

From: Fitz-James, Schatzi
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2015 4:09 PM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Cc: Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross; Corbett, Krysti
Subject: FW: Personal Printer in your cubicle

Follow up email I referred to in my previous email.
Schatzi

From: Prince, Roy
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2015 9:25 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Fitz-James, Schatzi; Behan, Frank
Subject: Personal Printer in your cubicle

Good morning [REDACTED] [REDACTED] reported some complications related to offgassing or smells from the personal printer in [REDACTED] cubicle and it's going to be removed. However, we're in the process of making arrangements for both you and [REDACTED] to have access to the OSRTI remote connect printer(s) in your cubicle area. I need to know please if you'd prefer to keep the personal printer currently in your cubicle or have it removed as well? Either way, as stated above, you'll have access to the remote printers. Thank you.

Roy

Fielden, Daniel

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2015 9:20 AM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Subject: Sending former emails regarding continuing health effects from July 2014 chemical release incident

Hi Shuan,

I am going to forward to you, today, old emails which signify continued health problems stemming from the chemical release incident which occurred on July 3, 2014 at PYN. Due to continued feeling of my throat burning, I was moved in August 2014 from my [REDACTED]. Here is the email on that move.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery,
Materials Recovery Waste Management Division
Energy Recovery and Waste Disposal Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 07, 2014 8:47 AM
To: Behan, Frank
Cc: Hoffman, Stephen; Dufficy, Craig; Kelly, PatrickM
Subject: Schedule

Frank,

I'm working from home today. Roy has moved me up to the 6th floor. I was given [REDACTED], but got bumped Tuesday afternoon. The cubicle they then moved me to, won't be available until tomorrow.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Fielden, Daniel

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2015 9:26 AM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Subject: Fw: Status Update

FYI

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2014 8:57 PM
To: Behan, Frank; Devlin, Betsy
Subject: Status Update

Hello Frank and Betsy,

I thought it prudent to give you an update on my status.

Background: Beginning July 17, I noticed a burning in my throat and ears while working in the office on the fifth floor. Each work day in the office, this occurred. On July 28, I completed the OSHA form 301 and submitted it. On August 5, I was scheduled with an appointment to share this information with the Health and Safety doctor, Dr. Holland. On August 8, I was moved up to a cubicle on the 6th floor. I worked in this cubicle on Aug 8, 11 and 12. On each of those days, I continued to experience the burning sensation in my throat and ears. On Aug 12, I advised Dr. Holland that I was also experiencing these symptoms on the 6th floor. Dr. Holland informed me that an environmental study on the fifth floor was to begin that day. Roy advised me on Aug 12 to go home and work from home the remainder of the week.

I'm hearing today that some folks are continuing to experience issues related to this pesticide incident. I was hoping to get information back related to the environmental study. I can work from home, but it makes it difficult to move forward on certain tasks when email requests go unanswered. I realize that you all are extraordinarily swamped regarding the coal ash rule. I do, very much appreciate your help in approving the web posting changes for the Assessment Program Round 12 posting.

So, my computer, chair and phone reside up on the 6th floor, my other "stuff" remains in my cubicle on the fifth floor.

I'm just sort of at a loss as to what to do. It would be nice to know that there is a plan to ensure the safety and health of the employees. Roy's biweekly updates don't necessarily provide any/all pertinent information in order to know how to move forward.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery,
Materials Recovery Waste Management Division

Energy Recovery and Waste Disposal Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Fielden, Daniel

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2015 9:30 AM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Subject: Fw: Please hold off on 6th Floor cubicle

FYI

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2014 8:10 AM
To: Devlin, Betsy; Prince, Roy; Behan, Frank
Subject: Please hold off on 6th Floor cubicle

Dear All:

I would rather wait on moving [REDACTED]. I have had a lingering cough since leaving the work space at EPA. I have an appointment scheduled with my medical practitioner, but not until next week - she's been on vacation.

I am also concerned that there has been no mention of air sampling. It is not clear to me why a water sample would be taken from the pantry.

I suppose I'll have to wait until next week on those two questions.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery, Materials Recovery Waste Management Division Energy Recovery and Waste Disposal Branch U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [REDACTED]

Fielden, Daniel

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2015 9:35 AM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Subject: Fw: today

FYI

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 1:32 PM
To: Hoffman, Stephen
Subject: Re: today

I may move back to the fifth floor. Since I've been experiencing some of the same symptoms upstairs when I have come in as of late (starts about 2.5 hrs after arriving), why be isolated on the sixth floor when I can likely feel the same way and be among "friends"!!

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 1:27 PM
To: Behan, Frank; Hoffman, Stephen; Dufficy, Craig; Kelly, PatrickM
Subject: today

Decided to work from home today.

[REDACTED]
Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery,
Materials Recovery Waste Management Division
Energy Recovery and Waste Disposal Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
[REDACTED]

Fielden, Daniel

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2015 9:58 AM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Subject: Fw: 5th Floor

FYI

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 22, 2014 10:16 AM
To: Behan, Frank
Cc: Devlin, Betsy; Elliott, Ross
Subject: 5th Floor

Hi All,

Came in last week on Thursday and Friday to work on the 5th floor and test things out. Thought all was ok, but ended up with a scratchy throat and cough on Friday mid-day that lasted through Saturday. So, things have gotten better, but still not good enough for me to comfortably move back to the 5th floor to work.

Will be working from home this afternoon.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Fielden, Daniel

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2015 10:02 AM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Subject: Fw: 6th floor or 8th floor

FYI

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 11:32 PM
To: Behan, Frank
Subject: Re: 6th floor or 8th floor

Ok -- thanks for the email. I will wait until Friday then to head into the office. I will work from home tomorrow morning. Thanks Frank.

[REDACTED]

From: Behan, Frank
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 9:34 PM
To: Englander, Jana
Subject: RE: 6th floor or 8th floor

Hi [REDACTED]

I have not worked out all the details to have your computer in place [REDACTED]. Let me check if it will be done by Friday. I'll send you another email tomorrow. Thanks

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 1/20/2015 5:00 PM
To: Behan, Frank
Subject: 6th floor or 8th floor

Hi Frank,

I just listened to your VM. From my experience last week, I'm not real keen [REDACTED]. So, I suppose [REDACTED]. I really am not thrilled with this solution - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Though, thanks for all your help. Let me know when you can meet with me on Thursday, or in which cubicle I will be working - I think at this point, given a choice, I would prefer your side of the building.

[REDACTED]

Fielden, Daniel

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2015 10:05 AM
To: Barbour-Swann, Shuan
Subject: Fw: Name plate for you

FYI - [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2015 12:46 PM
To: Sanchez, Janice
Subject: Re: Name plate for you

I will be showing up on Thursday morning. I normally work from home on Wednesdays.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery,
Materials Recovery Waste Management Division
Energy Recovery and Waste Disposal Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
[REDACTED]

From: Sanchez, Janice
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2015 12:38 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Name plate for you

I forgot to tell you that I am not going to be here on Wednesday, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] or just knock on the door and someone will let
you in.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2015 12:30 PM
To: Sanchez, Janice
Subject: Re: Name plate for you

Thank you Janice.

[REDACTED]
Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery,
Materials Recovery Waste Management Division
Energy Recovery and Waste Disposal Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

[REDACTED]

From: Sanchez, Janice
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2015 12:19 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Gallahan, James
Subject: Name plate for you

Hi [REDACTED]

I've ask Helen Smith to make a name plate for you, that way you don't have to bring your name plate over. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]